

Proactive Release

Date: 10 February 2020

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth:

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor:

(CAB-19-MIN 644 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio Trade and Export Growth

On 9 December 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Damien O'Connor under CAB-19-SUB-0644 on his travel, from 11 to 12 October 2019, to Bangkok, Thailand, to attend an urgent Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Damien O'Connor

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Bangkok from 11 to 12 October 2019, where I represented New Zealand at the 10th Ministerial-level negotiating meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement.

Report

- 1 Similar to the previous meetings I have attended this year, this meeting focussed on driving the RCEP negotiations to conclusion by November, s6(a)
s6(a)
- 2 The original objective of the meeting was to prepare the announcement of conclusion to be delivered by Leaders at the RCEP Summit on 4 November. However, when ministers arrived in Bangkok, the text of the agreement was yet to be completed with the investment, services, movement of natural persons and e-commerce chapters all still subject to ongoing negotiations
s6(a)
- 3 s6(a)
- 4 Ministers eventually agreed a '10-day workplan' s6(a)
s6(a) The understanding from the ministerial meeting was that all issues not resolved by the end of the 10-day workplan would be 'frozen', so that a clear picture could be presented to Leaders to inform their announcement.
- 5 s6(a)

Proactive release

- 6 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth