

Proactive Release

Date: 16 December 2019

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

***Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker – Shanghai, China
4-7 November 2019***

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

(CAB-19-MIN-0564 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; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 4 November 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon David Parker from New Zealand, from 4 to 7 November 2019, to travel to Shanghai, China to attend an informal meeting of WTO Ministers and to lead the New Zealand delegation at the China International Import Expo;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that the Ministerial party's accommodation costs will be met by the Chinese government;
- 5 **noted** that he is being accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Chris Hipkins act as Attorney-General;
 - 6.2 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 6.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment;
- 7 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon David Parker

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

- 1 I seek Cabinet's approval to travel to Shanghai, China between 4-7 November to attend an informal meeting of WTO Ministers hosted by the Chinese Government. I will also be attending the China International Import Expo (CIIE) due to a recent change in my programme.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been granted by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The s6(a) of my travel to Shanghai is to attend the informal meeting of WTO Ministers that the Chinese Government is hosting on 5 November, where New Zealand is one of only approximately 30 (out of 164) WTO Members invited to participate. This meeting is a crucial gathering in the WTO calendar, and the agenda focuses on possible outcomes for the Twelfth Ministerial Conference in Kazakhstan in June 2020, as well as how to advance the necessary reform of the WTO, and to ensure that the WTO remains a credible and effective body.
- 4 New Zealand's invitation reflects the active role that New Zealand plays as a supporter of the multilateral trading system, for example, through my role as Vice-Chair of the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017, my participation in the Ottawa Group of Ministers on WTO reform, and New Zealand's current role as Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body and facilitator of the informal "Walker process" to resolve the Appellate Body impasse, as well as our active engagement across the WTO's negotiating agenda.
- 5 I intend to use the opportunity to galvanise support for the Walker process as the WTO's best chance of securing a multilateral solution to the issues facing the dispute settlement mechanism. This is particularly important in the face of bilateral "interim" solutions that have emerged recently and risk undermining that process. I also intend to focus Members on the importance of concluding the fisheries subsidies disciplines this year, in line with Ministers' commitments at Buenos Aires and Leaders' direction in Sustainable Development Goal 14.6. As the only active multilateral negotiation in Geneva, it is crucial for the WTO's credibility as a negotiating forum that we deliver. While negotiations have been difficult in both substance and process, all the elements are on the table, and conclusion is still possible with the necessary political will.
- 6 Looking ahead to the Twelfth Ministerial Conference, I will make clear that New Zealand is seeking a multilateral outcome on our long-standing priority to discipline agricultural domestic support measures, and is also keen to make progress in the plurilateral joint statement processes on e-commerce and services that were launched in 2017. In addition, I will signal New Zealand's intention to build support for a Joint Ministerial Statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform.

- 7 The meeting in Shanghai will also provide an opportunity for bilateral engagements with key Ministerial counterparts on WTO and other bilateral trade issues, such as progress in various FTAs and Brexit. I will be accompanied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) Deputy Secretary for Trade and Economic Affairs, Vangelis Vitalis, and New Zealand's Ambassador to the WTO (and facilitator of the informal process to resolve the Appellate Body impasse), David Walker.
- 8 I will also attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) during my time in Shanghai. The CIIE is a signature initiative of President Xi and one of China's top trade priorities for 2019. s6(a) I have been formally invited to attend by Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan to attend the CIIE opening ceremony on 5 November. Along with other ministers at the WTO meeting I have also been invited to participate in a courtesy call on President Xi ahead of the opening ceremony.
- 9 Over 80 New Zealand companies have registered to participate in the CIIE and I will take the opportunity to visit many of them at the CIIE Pavilion during my time in Shanghai. This will present a positive opportunity to engage with New Zealand businesses with significant equities in China on some of the key developments in the New Zealand-China relationship, particularly the recently-concluded FTA Upgrade. There will also be significant interest in other developments in New Zealand including reform of the Overseas Investment Act.

Ministerial Party

- 10 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of my delegation. Final costs will be determined once the itinerary is confirmed following the change in my programme but the estimated cost of travel for me and my staff member is s9(2)(f)(iv) Given I am leading the New Zealand delegation to the CIIE, the Chinese Government will be meeting the cost of accommodation for me and my accompanying staff member. This will be recorded in my pecuniary interest return.
- 11 I will be accompanied by MFAT's Deputy Secretary for Trade and Economic Affairs, Vangelis Vitalis, and New Zealand's Ambassador to the WTO (and facilitator of the informal process to resolve the Appellate Body impasse), David Walker. Their costs will be met by the departmental budget.

Travel Costs

- 12 The estimated costs of my travel to Shanghai are:

Flights (TBC)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Accommodation

Per Diem (Food)

**Incidentals &
Communications**

Subtotal

Contingency 10%

TOTAL

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Chris Hipkins;

Trade and Export Growth: Rt. Hon Winston Peters;

Environment: Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

Proactive release

14 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.

Recommendations

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 4-7 November to travel to Shanghai, China.

15.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;

15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs Members of the Executive – Travel;

15.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by the agency;

15.5 agree that Hon. Chris Hipkins (Attorney-General); Rt. Hon Winston Peters (Trade and Export Growth) and Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Environment) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;

15.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Annex One: Indicative Programme

Monday 4 November

- Depart New Zealand (pm)

Tuesday 5 November

- Arrive Shanghai
- Courtesy call on President Xi (TBC)
- Opening ceremony of the CIIE (hosted by President Xi TBC)
- Priority bilateral meetings with select Ministerial Counterparts - TBC (pm)
- Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting (pm)
- Official Dinner for Ministers (pm)

Wednesday 6 November

- Visit CIIE pavilion to support New Zealand businesses
- Series of bilateral meetings with Ministerial counterparts – TBC (am/pm)
- Departure for New Zealand (pm)

Thursday 7 November

- Arrive in New Zealand (am)

Proactively Released by the
Minister for Trade and Export Growth