

Proactive Release

Date: 18 March 2020

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

(CAB-20-MIN-0016 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:

- 9(2)(f)(iv): the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 10 February 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon David Parker from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 12 to 14 February 2020, to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting for Ministers Responsible for Trade and the PACER-Plus Minister's Meeting;
- 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 he will also be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Attorney-General;
 - 5.2 Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment.

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 approval to travel to Suva, Fiji, for the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting for Ministers Responsible for Trade and a PACER-Plus Ministers' Meeting, between 12-14 February.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The prosperity, stability and resilience of the Pacific is of fundamental importance to New Zealand. Bilateral relationships in the Pacific and New Zealand's relationship with and membership of the Pacific Islands Forum are cornerstones of our international engagement. The Pacific Reset has marked a significant lift in New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific region, and this includes supporting increased trade and economic engagement and ensuring the sustained growth and prosperity of Pacific economies.
- 4 My attendance at the Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting (FTMM) is central to demonstrating our commitment to the region as a constructive and engaged partner, and to promoting effective regional approaches to trade and economic issues. The meeting provides a welcome opportunity for me to engage with the majority of my Pacific counterparts, while advancing our trade objectives – in particular, the successful entry into force of PACER Plus by mid-2020. This will be the first FTMM in five years.
- 5 New Zealand has direct and indirect influence on the economic prosperity of Pacific Island Countries, and the agenda for the meeting reflects the range of issues where this influence is felt. This includes discussions on labour mobility, trade and the environment, trade and health, and the Regional Aid for Trade Strategy including Quality Infrastructure.
- 6 The meeting will also reflect on global trade issues and their implications for the Pacific and Forum members. The meeting will provide me with an opportunity to also update Ministers and to seek on-going Pacific support for New Zealand's fossil fuel subsidy reform agenda, of importance for the region's climate change focus.
- 7 New Zealand's main objectives for the meeting will be to:
 - Update non-PACER Plus signatories on progress towards entry into force of the agreement, and to continue to encourage Fiji and Papua New Guinea to join the agreement;

- To seek the support of Pacific World Trade Organisation members of New Zealand's statement on fossil fuel subsidy reform at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in June;
 - To emphasise New Zealand's support for the Pacific Regional Aid for Trade strategy;
 - To reinforce New Zealand's commitment to labour mobility, including because of the mutual benefits for New Zealand and the Pacific.
- 8 A PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting (PPMM) will be held ahead of the FTMM for the purpose of Ministers reaffirming their countries' commitment to PACER Plus. The Cook Islands will chair this meeting.
- 9 New Zealand's objective will be to use the meeting to encourage signatories to ratify the Agreement, to allow the Agreement to enter into force by mid-2020. The meeting will consider the tangible benefits gained to date by Pacific signatories, including through the New Zealand and Australia-funded Readiness Package.
- 10 While in Suva I will also hold discussions on our priority bilateral interests with both Fiji and Pacific Ministers, as availability allows.

Ministerial Party

- 11 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. A senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me; their travel costs will be covered by the departmental budget.

Travel Costs

- 12 The estimated costs of my and my staff member's travel to Seoul are:

Flights s9(2)(f)(iv)

Accommodation

Per Diem Subtotal

Representation

Interpretation

Gifts

Subtotal

Contingency 10%

TOTAL

Addendum: the reference to Seoul above is an error and should read Suva

Acting Ministers

13 Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

- Trade and Export Growth - Hon Damien O'Connor
- Attorney-General – Hon Andrew Little
- 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, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, between 12-14 February to travel to Fiji;

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 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by the department;

15.5 note that Acting Ministers have been arranged in my portfolios;

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

ANNEX

Indicative Programme: Fiji

12-14 February 2020

Wednesday 12 February

- Depart for Fiji
- Arrive in Suva via Nadi (evening)
- Attend a dinner hosted by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor, with all attending Pacific Ministers.

Thursday 13 February

- Briefing with officials;
- Attend the PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting;
- Attend a Government hosted Fiji briefing on e-commerce opportunities;
- Attend the Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting;
- Meet with and hold discussions with Fiji and Pacific Ministers, in the margins of the FTMM;
- Attend a function for Ministers hosted by Fiji's Trade Minister.

Friday 14 February

- Host Pacific WTO members for a breakfast meeting in support of fossil fuel subsidy reform;
- Depart Suva for Auckland via Nadi;
- Arrive in Auckland (early evening).