Proactive Release

Published on or before: 08/12/2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Investment

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026	CAB-26-MIN-0331
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026	

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CAB-26-MIN-0331

Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 27 October 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-26-SUB-0331 on Hon Dr Shane Reti's travel, from 19 to 23 September 2026, to Manila, the Philippines to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Ministers Meeting.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on travel to the Philippines from 19-23 September, undertaken by Hon Dr Shane Reti on my behalf.

Report

1 The purpose of Hon Dr Reti's travel was to lead the New Zealand delegation at the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministers Meeting in Manila on 21 September. This is the premier annual summit for ASEAN economic ministers, with many senior ministers in attendance.

2 New Zealand's attendance at the meetings demonstrated our commitment to ASEAN-led trade architecture and the rules-based trading system with the WTO at its core and progressed key issues of importance to our trading interests, such as the expansion of RCEP both in terms of membership and its upgrade.

3 Hon Dr Reti also held bilateral engagements on the margins of the meeting with Australia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Matt Thistlewaithe, Philippines Trade Undersecretary Allan Gepty, and Indonesia's Vice Minister of Trade Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri. These meetings provided an opportunity to share respective priorities for the meetings.

4 Hon Dr Reti also carried out a bilateral programme in Manila on 22 September. This demonstrated New Zealand's commitment to the new Comprehensive Partnership with the Philippines, which was announced by Minister Peters in Manila in July. Hon Dr Reti met with the foreign committee chairs of both the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as minister-level officials at the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Commission on Higher Education. Discussions highlighted the strong 60-year relationship and identified agri-science, geothermal energy and the Indigenous economy as key areas of alignment between Philippines priorities and New Zealand expertise.

Proactive release

5 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

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Recommendation

6 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

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