

# Proactive Release

Date: 10 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-0017 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;
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.



# 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 16 to 20 February 2020, to travel to Dubai, United Arab Emirates to participate in the New Zealand-United Arab Emirates Joint Economic Commission and the Gulfood 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 he will also be accompanied by officials 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 Dubai from 16-20 February to participate in the New Zealand-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and the Gulfood Expo.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 This visit will provide an opportunity to pursue closer economic integration with the UAE, formalised through the JEC, and raise New Zealand's profile <sup>s6(a)</sup> in the Middle East region <sup>s6(a)</sup>.  
The high-level visit will take place in the wider context of New Zealand's investment in Expo 2020.
- 4 The UAE is New Zealand's tenth largest trading partner with two-way trade reaching \$4.01 billion in 2019. The UAE is also a hub for air links with Europe; and acts as the gateway for exports into the Middle East and Africa. The UAE is also <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 5 The Gulfood Expo is the world's largest annual food and beverage trade exhibition. Its 24th iteration at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) concluded with major alliance breakthroughs and multibillion-dollar export deals.
- 6 The main purpose of my travel to the UAE is to participate in the seventh biennial JEC with UAE Minister of Economy Sultan Al Mansouri. The JEC is a key element of the New Zealand-UAE bilateral relationship, providing an important opportunity to engage with the <sup>s6(a)</sup>.  
The JEC will include a bilateral Ministerial meeting and a Plenary Session. Major outcomes will be recorded in an Agreed Minute; <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 7 I also propose to advance key issues of importance for New Zealand through a bilateral meeting with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, whose portfolio covers climate change, environment programmes, biosecurity, food safety and import requirements for food and agricultural

products, and who played a leading role in the UAE's successful campaign to host the International Renewable Energy Agency.

- 8 Visiting the Gulfood Expo will provide a valuable opportunity to raise New Zealand's profile in the region. I will visit the New Zealand Pavilion, s6(a), s9(2)(b)(ii)

Speak at the annual NZTE-hosted NZ Gulfood Reception and meet with NZ Exporters and their in-market distributors. I will also meet with NZTE's in-market beachhead advisers to discuss opportunities and challenges for New Zealand in the UAE and the region.

### Ministerial Party

- 9 I will be accompanied by one staff member. Final costs will be determined once the itinerary is confirmed but the estimated cost of travel for me and my staff member is s9(2)(f)(iv)

### Travel Costs

- 10 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares: s9(2)(f)(iv)

Accommodation:

Per Diems/Meals:

Gifts:

Representation:

Subtotal:

Contingency (10%)

**Total:**

### Acting Ministers

- 11 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Andrew Little;

Trade and Export Growth: Hon Damien O'Connor;

Environment: Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

### Proactive release

- 12 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

13 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 13.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 16 February to 20 February to travel to Dubai;
- 13.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
- 13.3 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];
- 13.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; whose travel costs will be met by the department;
- 13.5 agree that Hon. Andrew Little (Attorney-General); Hon Damien O'Connor (Trade and Export Growth) and Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Environment) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 13.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Previously Released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth