

# Proactive Release

1/02/2022

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	Cabinet paper
Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel	CAB-21-MIN-0470

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

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

[RESTRICTED]

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore, Australia and Switzerland from 16 November – 6 December 2021.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The key objectives of the travel, if approved, are to join a United States' hosted meeting on their proposed Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership (IPEP), take up the invitation from the Australian Trade Minister to visit Australia and advance our bilateral relationship, and represent New Zealand at the WTO's 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC12).
- 4 United States Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo, has invited me to attend, alongside Australian and Singapore Ministers, a high level meeting on the US's proposed Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership (IPEP) initiative in the margins of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore on 17 November. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

While in Singapore, I will also hold a bilateral meeting with Secretary Raimondo, participate in the Bloomberg Economic Forum, meet with my Singaporean Ministerial counterparts and engage with the New Zealand business community.

- 5 I will then travel to Australia to take up the invitation of my Australian Trade counterpart, Minister Dan Tehan, to visit following the IPEP meeting in Singapore and before MC12 in Switzerland. While we would normally hold CER Ministerial discussions every 6 months, we have not had in-person discussions in the last two years due to Covid-19 restrictions. As our closest and most important partner, there is significant value to the relationship in visiting Australia and engaging with Ministerial counterparts. In addition to meeting with Minister Tehan in Melbourne, I am looking to meet with my Agriculture counterpart, my Land Information counterpart, other Parliamentarians in Canberra for Parliament that week, as well as relevant think tanks and key officials and stakeholders relevant to both my trade and agriculture portfolios.
- 6 Finally, I intend to represent New Zealand at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland. New Zealand, as a long-standing

Please note the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference did not go ahead due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

supporter of the rules-based international trading system, intends to seek an outcome on the long-running fisheries subsidies negotiations, a credible trade policy response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a timeline on addressing domestic agriculture support. I also intend to lead a Ministerial declaration on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR).

- 7 The WTO Secretariat has requested in-person Ministerial attendance, and have not offered virtual contingencies. MC12 will therefore also offer an opportunity for in-person engagement with a wide range of Ministers to progress our other trade ambitions, including meeting with other EU, Gulf and Latin American Ministers. In advance of MC12, I will also meet with the Ottawa Group on WTO reform, the Cairns Group of agriculture ministers,

s6(a)

- 8 I acknowledge the changing global situation with respect to COVID-19, and will continue to monitor developments in each host country. For the official delegation, closely observing COVID protocols and adopting appropriate risk mitigation measures will be important throughout my travel. I will adapt my travel plans if necessary, including through contingency budgeting. My official delegation and I will undertake the requisite period in MIQ, and will use the MIQ allocation for Ministerial travel.

### Ministerial Party

- 9 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. One senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will accompany me to Singapore; two officials from MFAT will accompany me in Geneva. The travel costs of MFAT officials will be covered by their departmental budget.

### Travel Costs

- 10 The estimated costs of my travel are:

	Minister	Staff
<b>Flights</b>	22,500	22,500
<b>Ground transport</b>	1000	1000
<b>Accommodation</b>	8500	6500
<b>Per Diems</b>	2142	2142
<b>Facilitation</b>	2500	-

<b>Representation</b>	3500	-
<b>PCR Tests</b>	1200	1200
<b>Gifts</b>	400	-
<b>MIQ</b>	1610	1610
<b>Subtotal</b>	43352	34952
<b>Contingency 15%</b>	6502	5242
<b>TOTAL</b>	49854	40194

**TOTAL \$90,048**

### **Acting Ministers**

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

Land Information: Hon David Parker

Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri

Trade and Export Growth: Hon Phil Twyford

### **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 November to 6 December 2021 to travel to Singapore, Australia and Switzerland;

13.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;

- 13.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$90,048 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 one senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in Singapore, two officials from MFAT in Geneva, and their travel costs will be met by the department;
- 13.5 agree that Hon David Parker (Land Information); Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) and Hon Phil Twyford (Trade and Export Growth) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 13.6 note that I and my official delegation will be using the MIQ allocation for Ministerial travel; and
- 13.7 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth



# 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 Damien O'Connor

**Portfolio**                      **Trade and Export Growth**

On 15 November 2021, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 16 November to 6 December 2021 to travel to:
  - 1.1      Singapore to attend the Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership meeting and bilateral meetings;
  - 1.2      Melbourne and Canberra, Australia for bilateral meetings;
  - 1.3      Geneva, Switzerland to attend World Trade Organisation's 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$90,048 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 be accompanied by one senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in Singapore, and two officials from MFAT in Geneva, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon David Parker act as Minister for Land Information;
  - 5.2      Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Biosecurity, and Minister for Rural Communities;
  - 5.3      Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
- 6        **noted** that he and his official delegation will be using the MIQ allocation for Ministerial travel;
- 7        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Secretary's note:** Subsequent to the Cabinet meeting, Hon Damien O'Connor's office advised that Hon Stuart Nash will act as Minister for Land Information instead of Hon David Parker.