



# 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 5 September 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from Aotearoa New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 18 to 24 September 2022 to travel to:
  - 1.1      New Delhi, India to broaden New Zealand's trade relationship with India;
  - 1.2      Bali, Indonesia to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$53,922 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 Dr David Clark act as Minister for Land Information and Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
  - 5.2      Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

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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 New Delhi, India, and Bali, Indonesia from 18 to 24 September to deepen and broaden our relationship with India in support of our trade recovery objectives, and to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting in Indonesia.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The proposed travel supports all four pillars of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS): **Trade and Export Lift, Architecture, Sustainable and Inclusive Trade, and Resilience**

#### *India*

- 4 **India's** power and influence in the Indo-Pacific is growing, and its expanding economy holds significant potential for New Zealand's economic interests and market diversification. My visit and proposed meetings will help lift high-level political engagement with India. This is part of our overall strategy to invest in our broader relationship with India in support of our trade and economic, and agriculture, objectives. I will use my meetings to share perspectives on regional and international trade and economic challenges, including the WTO, G20 agenda and climate change, as well as demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to mutually beneficial agriculture cooperation – supporting Architecture and Sustainable and Inclusive Trade.
- 5 My visit to India will help to strengthen India's understanding of New Zealand's economic value proposition, across investment, services and as a partner for agriculture cooperation. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 6 While in India I will speak at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Leadership for Future conference, which is the leading non-government trade association in India. A delegation from the India New Zealand Business Council (INZBC), including a number of key New Zealand business and exporters operating in India, will also attend the conference. This supports efforts under the TRS to achieve Trade and Export Lift and increase Resilience.

- 7 My visit will follow shortly after a visit by Minister for Food Safety, Hon Meka Whaitiri from 10-14 September to present at the International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit in New Delhi. Minister Whaitiri's programme will include a bilateral focus on food safety as well as opportunities for indigenous cooperation. Both visits reinforce the importance New Zealand attaches to our relationship with India. We are working to align our respective programmes, which will demonstrate a whole of NZ Inc. effort to support trade and export lift s6(a)

### *Indonesia*

- 8 Following my travel to India, I propose travelling to Bali, **Indonesia** to attend the G20 Trade, Investment and Industry Ministerial Meeting (TIIMM) 21-23 September, which host and Chair, Indonesia has invited New Zealand to fill one of the highly sought after Guest invitations. This reflects very positively on the state of the relationship with Indonesia, and the valuable contribution New Zealand made to the 2021 G20 Trade Ministerial Meeting in our capacity as APEC Chair.
- 9 The G20 is the premier international forum for the international coordination of economic policy, with a particular focus on global economic growth and international trade, investment and financial markets. Participation in G20 meetings as a Special Guest enhances New Zealand's ability to influence and support the G20's work to strengthen the rules-based international trade system and promote a resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic recovery while projecting a Small State perspective. I will also take advantage of the G20's convening power to seek bilateral meetings with my Ministerial counterparts.
- 10 The G20 is in of itself a key piece of regional Architecture, and the focus of both formal and bilateral meetings aligns well with both the Sustainable and Inclusive and Resilience pillars of the TRS. The G20 TMM has a strong focus on using trade to achieve the SDGs, inclusive industrialisation through innovation and also on promoting sustainable global value chains. The meeting will also deal with trade responses to pandemics and global health architecture, which will increase resilience. s6(a)

### **Ministerial Party**

- 11 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office.
- 12 Two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will accompany me on this visit, one in India and the other in Indonesia. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

### **Travel Costs**

- 13 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$31,502
Accommodation:	\$3,864
Per Diems	\$1,104
Airport Facilitation	\$1,200
Representation/events	\$6,421
PCR tests	\$44
Gifts	\$800
Contingency (20%)	\$8,987
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 53,922</b>

### **Acting Ministers**

14 Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am travelling are listed below:

- Land Information: Hon Dr David Clark
- Trade and Export Growth: Hon Dr David Clark
- Agriculture, Biosecurity, Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri

### **Proactive release**

15 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**

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 18 to 24 September to travel to New Delhi, India, and Bali, Indonesia to deepen and broaden our relationship with India in support of our trade recovery objectives, and to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting in Indonesia;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$53,922 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;

1.5 agree that in my absence:

1.5.1 Hon Dr David Clark (Land Information, Trade and Export Growth) and Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity, and Rural Communities) will be Acting Ministers; and

1.6 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

Proactively Released by the Minister  
for Trade and Export Growth