

Proactive Release

Date: 8 December 2022

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor, 12-19 November 2022, Viet Nam and Thailand	CAB-22-MIN-0486



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 7 November 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 12 to 19 November 2022, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Viet Nam to support the Prime Minister for a bilateral visit;
 - 1.2 Bangkok, Thailand to attend the APEC Ministerial Meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$35,206 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and Education New Zealand will be supporting the Viet Nam trade mission and MFAT officials will also be attending the APEC meetings, with their costs being met from their departmental budgets;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth on 12 November 2022, and from 18 to 19 November 2022;
 - 5.3 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth from 13 to 17 November 2022;
 - 5.4 Hon Meka Whitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Rachel Hayward
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 Viet Nam and Thailand from 12-19 November.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of travel is twofold: to support the Prime Minister in her planned trade mission to Viet Nam from 13-15 November, and to attend the APEC Ministerial Meeting hosted in Bangkok from 16-17 November.
- 4 Trade remains a key driver for the overall economic recovery of Aotearoa New Zealand, emerging from two years dominated by the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated border closures.
- 5 The visit to Viet Nam, with an accompanying New Zealand business delegation, would look to help reconnect New Zealand businesses with the rapidly growing Viet Nam market and advance the Trade Recovery Strategy objectives around diversification.
- 6 In addition, there would be events that highlight and support New Zealand's agriculture and education relationships with Viet Nam, as well as demonstrating the value of our development programme and bilateral cooperation as levers for further growth in the trade and economic relationship.
- 7 The agenda for the APEC meeting will focus on the theme of open and sustainable trade and investment. It will support maintaining momentum for open and sustainable trade and development to ensure that the Asia-Pacific remains a dynamic and interconnected regional economy.
- 8 Attendance at the APEC meeting will build upon the progress made in Aotearoa New Zealand's host year in 2021, which laid the foundations for an inclusive, sustainable recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.
- 9 I will also take the opportunity to meet bilaterally with various APEC counterparts, and build key trade relationships for New Zealand. At present, between five to seven meetings are planned with counterparts in the margins of the formal APEC meetings.

- 10 The proposed travel particularly supports the implementation of the **Trade and Export** and **Architecture** pillars of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS), by contributing to strengthening New Zealand's relationships and our network of trade agreements, international and regional trade architecture.

Ministerial Party

- 11 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and Education New Zealand (ENZ) will join as appropriate for elements of the Viet Nam programme, while MFAT officials will support me at APEC AMM. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 12 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights	\$23,388
Accommodation	\$2,860
Ground transport	\$250
Hospitality/representation	\$4,650
Total per diem	\$888
Gifts	\$750
Interpretation	\$2,370
COVID-19 tests	\$50
Contingency of 15%	\$5,156
Total	\$35,206

Acting Ministers

- 13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- Land Information: Hon Dr David Clark
 - Trade and Export Growth: Hon Phil Twyford
 - Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri

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, from 12-19 November to travel to Viet Nam and Thailand;
- 15.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
- 15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$35,206 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 15.4 note that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and Education New Zealand (ENZ) will be supporting the Viet Nam trade mission and MFAT officials will also be attending the APEC meetings, and officials' travel costs will be met from their departmental budgets;
- 15.5 agree that Hon Dr David Clark (Land Information), Hon Phil Twyford (Trade and Export Growth); and Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
- 15.6 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