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On 20 September 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon James Shaw from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 16 November 2021, to travel to Glasgow, United Kingdom, to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26);
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$53,197 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 officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Ministry of Primary Industries, and Ministry for the Environment, whose travel costs will be met by their departments;
- 5 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by a representative of the Government of Tokelau, whose costs will be met by MFAT;
- 6 **noted** that that the broader New Zealand delegation will include iwi representatives whose costs will be met by MFAT and business representatives whose costs will be met by themselves;
- 7 **agreed** that in his absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Climate Change;
- 8 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Musterer.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

## **In Confidence**

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon James Shaw**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Glasgow, United Kingdom from 6 to 16 November 2021 to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Musterer.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 COP is a significant and important climate change event. Normally annual, last year's event was deferred due to COVID-19. This year's host, the United Kingdom, is determined to put on a full-scale in-person COP and has not provided an option for virtual participation. It is expected that the event will be attended by up to 25,000 people, including international and national leaders and representatives from the private sector, academia, non-government organisations, municipalities and the financial sector, among others.
- 4 New Zealand's priorities for COP26 will be to:
  - 4.1 conclude negotiations on outstanding items of the Paris Agreement, specifically rules for carbon markets that ensure environmental integrity and a transparency system that supports ambition and holds Parties to account;
  - 4.2 support developed countries to restore confidence in the climate finance process; and
  - 4.3 stand with the Pacific to amplify the voices and priorities of our region.
- 5 It is expected that negotiations on carbon markets, in particular, will require resolution at ministerial level in order to conclude at COP26.

### ***Benefits of New Zealand Attendance***

- 6 The value of ministerial attendance at COP is to:

- 6.1 Improve the access and influence of New Zealand's negotiating delegation as the summit reaches its conclusion;
- 6.2 Advance New Zealand's interests in ensuring a successful outcome on carbon markets, and meet with leaders of other countries engaged in ensuring carbon markets have high levels of environmental integrity;
- 6.3 Deepen relationships with Pacific climate change Ministers and provide a bridge-building role between them and counterparts from donor countries, particularly on the difficult issue of 'loss and damage';
- 6.4 To profile and build momentum for New Zealand-led initiatives: Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Carbon Neutrality Coalition (CNC), Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Emissions (GRA); and
- 6.5 Demonstrate New Zealand's ongoing support for the Paris Agreement, including by conveying any updated nationally determined contribution and climate finance commitments that New Zealand may have made by the time of the COP.

#### *Bilateral Meetings and Events*

- 7 Early indications are that COP will be well attended. There is likely to be a opportunities for bilateral meetings with a range of countries at senior level.
- 8 There are a number of high-level ministerial events I will also attend, including the ministerial dialogue on climate finance. I will deliver New Zealand's national statement and participate in elements of the New Zealand-sponsored Pacific Space programme.

#### **Ministerial Party**

- 9 Subject to necessary approvals and securing MIQ allocation, I intend to lead a New Zealand delegation that will likely comprise:
  - 9.1 Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) [9]; Ministry for the Environment [3], and Ministry for Primary Industries [2]. Their costs will be met by their respective departments. A number of the officials will be drawn from our embassies and high commissions in Europe and there will be a smaller than usual contingent from New Zealand.
  - 9.2 A representative of the Government of Tokelau, whose travel will be paid for by MFAT [1].
  - 9.3 A small number of non-officials representing iwi [2] and business [9]. MFAT will meet the travel costs of iwi representatives as their inclusion

in the delegation advances Government's objectives. All other non-officials will be self-funded.

10 I seek Cabinet approval of funding for myself and one member of my staff.

### **Travel Costs**

11 The estimate costs of travel are as follows:

Airfares:	\$28,200
Accommodation:	\$12,132
MIQ allocation	\$6,200
Other expenses	\$1,920
Contingency (10%)	\$4,845
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$53,297</b>

### **Acting Ministers**

12 Hon. David Parker will act as Minister of Climate Change.

### **Proactive release**

13 I propose to release this paper proactively in whole or in part, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendations**

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

14.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 16 November 2021 to travel to Glasgow, United Kingdom, to attend COP26;

14.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

14.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$53,297 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

14.4 note that the delegation will include officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Primary Industries, and Ministry for the Environment, whose travel costs will be a charge to their respective departments;

14.5 note that I will be accompanied by a representative of the Government of Tokelau, whose costs will be met by MFAT;

- 14.6 note that that the broader New Zealand delegation will include representatives of iwi and business. Costs for iwi will be met by MFAT. Business representatives' costs will be met by them.
- 14.7 agree that in my absence Hon. David Parker act as Minister of Climate Change;
- 14.8 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from/approved by the Party Musterer.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change

Proactively released  
by the Minister for Climate Change