

Proactive Release

Date: 27 June 2023

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-23-MIN-0175
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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 security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



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 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, from 24 to 29 May 2023, to travel to Detroit, United States of America, to attend the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT), host a meeting of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Ministers, and attend an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ministerial meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$58,479 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 costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Rino Tirikatene act as Minister Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.3 Hon Jo Luxton act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Biosecurity;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[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 the United States from 24-29 May 2023.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

3 The primary purpose of the visit is to attend the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) in Detroit. Taking advantage of the gathering of Ministers for APEC, I will also host a meeting of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Ministers, and attend an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ministerial meeting.

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 My travel to the United States is a timely opportunity to advance New Zealand's core trade interests, as outlined to the Prime Minister in the recent prioritisation exercise. My travel will include work to improve on existing trade agreements such as CPTPP, to conclude the supply chains pillar of IPEF, and to uphold rules-based international trading systems including through the WTO and APEC.

6 The APEC MRT meeting is always one of the first ministerial meetings in APEC's annual calendar. New Zealand will continue to build off our APEC host year in 2021, and reinforce the value of multilateralism and the rules-based order.

7 The WTO Director-General is scheduled to attend, and making progress within APEC on WTO issues ahead of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13) scheduled for February 2024 will be a particular focus of the meeting.

8 I will also participate in a US-hosted IPEF ministerial meeting, currently scheduled to take place after the conclusion of the formal MRT proceedings.

^{s6(a)}

9 New Zealand is chair of the CPTPP for 2023. To make the most of CPTPP Ministers being in Detroit, I will host a short ministerial meeting to set the scene ahead of the July Commission meeting in New Zealand.

10 I will also take the opportunity to meet bilaterally with various counterparts, and build key trade relationships for New Zealand. At present, around ten meetings are planned with a range of APEC and IPEF counterparts in the margins of the formal APEC meetings,^{s6(a)}

11 The proposed travel particularly supports the implementation of the **Architecture** and **Resilience** pillars of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS 2.0), by contributing to strengthening New Zealand's relationships and our network of trade agreements, international and regional trade architecture, promoting diversification of trade, and mitigating supply chain pressures.

Ministerial Party

12 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. A delegation of nine MFAT officials will attend the cluster of APEC officials' meetings which lead into MRT, and provide support to the IPEF and CPTPP events. The costs of these officials' travel will be met by the agency.

Travel Costs

13 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights	\$34,778
Accommodation	\$5762
Ground transport	\$9000
Hospitality/representation	\$500
Total per diem	\$812
Gifts	-
Interpretation	-
COVID-19 tests	-
Contingency of 15%	\$7,627
Total	\$58,479

Acting Ministers

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

- Agriculture and Biosecurity - Hon Jo Luxton
- Land Information - Hon Andrew Little
- Trade and Export Growth - Hon Rino Tirikatene

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

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 16.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 24-29 May to travel to the United States;
- 16.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
- 16.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$58,479 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 16.4 note that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will attend the cluster of APEC officials' meetings which lead into MRT, and provide support to the IPEF and CPTPP events, and officials' travel costs will be met from their departmental budgets;
- 16.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Land Information), Hon Rino Tirikatene (Trade and Export Growth); and Hon Jo Luxton (Agriculture, Biosecurity) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
- 16.6 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