

Proactive Release

Date: 6 March 2024

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister for Trade

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0009
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – Tuesday, 23 January – Sunday, 28 January 2024	

Proactively released by the
Minister for Trade



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - January 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 23 January 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 23 to 28 January 2024, to travel to Geneva, Switzerland and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to contribute to preparations for the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13), for which he will be Vice-Chair;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$32,053 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 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Nicole McKee act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting in his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - Tuesday, 23 January – Sunday, 28 January 2024

- 1 I seek your approval to travel to Geneva and Dubai from 23 January to 28 January 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade. The primary purpose is to contribute to preparations for the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) in order to ensure that the outcome reflects New Zealand's interests. I will be a Vice-Chair of MC13 which will be held from 26-29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 I propose visiting Geneva, Switzerland to progress the following objectives. Firstly, I intend to advance outcomes on agriculture, fisheries subsidies and dispute settlement ahead of MC13 all of which are priority negotiations for New Zealand in the WTO. Secondly, to meet with the Director General and one of the Deputy Directors General of the WTO, as well as key WTO Member State representatives, including US, China, India and EU, and members of the Australia-chaired Cairns Group of agricultural exporters. Thirdly, as one of three Vice Chairs for MC13 (along with Panama and Cameroon), the visit provides the opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of the interests of a range of regional groupings within the WTO. On the basis of that I will be in a better position to assess where the landing zones might lie in order to help ensure a successful outcome from MC13.
- 4 Following Geneva, I propose to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to meet with Minister of State for Foreign Trade, HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, in Dubai. I will use the meeting as an opportunity to discuss my engagements in Geneva and, more specifically, how New Zealand can support the UAE as Chair of MC13 to achieve a successful outcome. It will also be an opportunity to build on our bilateral relationship in light of our free trade aspirations with the UAE and wider Gulf region. Officials are also ascertaining the availability of UAE ministerial counterparts for my additional portfolios, specifically associate foreign affairs and agriculture.

Ministerial Party

- 5 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office, my Senior Trade Advisor. Travel expenses of the Ministerial party will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 6 I will be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

Travel Costs

- 7 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$27,948.00
Other expenses:	\$ 753.00
Accommodation:	\$ 1,826.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,526.00
Total:	\$ 32,053.00

Acting Ministers

- 8 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am listed below:
- 8.1 Agriculture – Hon Mark Patterson
- 8.2 Forestry – Hon Simon Watts
- 8.3 Hunting and Fishing – Hon Nicole McKee
- 8.4 Trade – Rt Hon Winston Peters

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Tuesday, 23 January to Sunday, 28 January 2024 to travel to Geneva, Switzerland and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to contribute to preparations for the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13), of which I will be Vice-Chair, in order to ensure that the outcome reflects New Zealand's interests;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$32,053 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 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by that agency;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Mark Patterson will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
 - 1.5.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry
 - 1.5.3 Hon Nicole McKee will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 - 1.5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip,

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Proactively released by the
Minister for Trade