

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 8/09/2025

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel - Hon Todd McClay – August 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0252
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel - Hon Todd McClay – August 2025</i>	

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Key to OIA 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 Todd McClay - August 2025

Portfolio                      Trade and Investment

On 28 July 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 4 to 8 August 2025, to travel to Thailand and Indonesia for bilateral meetings;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$38,955 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 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Forestry and Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – August 2025

- 1 I seek approval to travel to Thailand and Indonesia from 4-8 August 2025 in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

**Purpose of Travel**

- 3 My travel to Thailand and Indonesia will strengthen both bilateral relationships and help advance New Zealand market access in these significant markets, contributing to New Zealand's goal of doubling exports within ten years.

4 s6(a)

- 5 My visit to Thailand will serve to establish relationships with influential and newly appointed Thai Ministers. s6(a)

I will use the opportunity of this visit to support New Zealand's uplift to a Strategic Partnership and acknowledge the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Zealand-Thailand Closer Economic Partnership.

4. My visit to Indonesia will serve to establish and strengthen relationships with key Indonesian Ministers – s6(a)

I will meet with a range of Indonesian counterparts to promote and

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demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the rules-based trading system with this influential middle power at a time of significant uncertainty. The visit is also an opportunity to make progress towards resolving our long-standing WTO dispute. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

### Ministerial Party

- 6 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). All costs for MFAT staff will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

### Travel Costs

- 7 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Airfares and surface travel	\$ 27,600
Accommodation and meals	\$ 4,000
Events and hosting	\$ 4,000
Gifts	\$ 1,500
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,855
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 38,955</b>

### Acting Ministers

- 8 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am out of the country:
- 8.1 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
  - 8.2 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister of Forestry
  - 8.3 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

### Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 4 August to New Zealand 8 August for travel to Thailand and Indonesia;
  - 1.2 note I will be accompanied by one member of staff;
  - 1.3 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by within the Ministry's baseline budget;

- 1.4 agree that in my absence:
  - 1.4.1 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
  - 1.4.2 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister of Forestry
  - 1.4.3 Minister Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 1.5 approve the estimated expenditure of \$38,955 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment