

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 18/11/2025

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Climate Change

Title	Reference
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Simon Watts – August 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0342
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Simon Watts – August 2025</i>	

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - August 2025

Portfolios Climate Change / Energy

On 6 October 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Simon Watts under CAB-25-SUB-0342 on his travel, from 26 to 30 August 2025, to:

- 1 Busan, the Republic of Korea, to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministers' Meeting;
- 2 Beijing, China, to attend the New Zealand-China Ministerial Climate Change Dialogue.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister for Climate Change

~~[Restricted]~~

Office of the Minister for Energy and the Minister of Climate Change
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – August 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Busan, Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Ministers' Meeting and Beijing, China to attend the New Zealand-China Ministerial Climate Change Dialogue, from 26 August to 30 August 2025.

Report

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Ministers' Meeting

- 1 I visited Busan, Korea for the 15th APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) on 26 – 29 August 2025. The AEMM was held under the theme of *Accelerating Sustainable, Affordable, Reliable, Secure and Innovative Energy for a Prosperous Future*.
- 2 Energy Ministers and representatives from APEC member economies issued a joint statement at the conclusion of the AEMM. We recognised the significant energy challenges the region faced and reaffirmed the importance of energy security, resilience and access. We recognised that more intensive efforts are needed to develop and deploy technologies for providing energy access, and underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation among economies through knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- 3 During my time in Korea, I held bilateral meetings with International Energy Agency Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol, Malaysia Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation Fadillah Yusof, Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry Gan Siow Huang, Japan Parliamentary Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Shinju Takeuchi and United States Deputy Secretary of Energy James Danly.
- 4 As an outcome of my discussion with Malaysia, we agreed to share expertise on geothermal energy and LNG importation and infrastructure. In my dialogue with the United States, we highlighted opportunities for further collaboration in our respective energy sectors on issues that are of common interest. I noted there were significant opportunities for investment by US businesses into the New Zealand energy sector. I was pleased to learn that New Zealand's priorities for critical minerals align with the United States' focus on diversifying supply chains.
- 5 While in Korea, I also took the opportunity to visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery of Korea and pay respects to the New Zealand soldiers who died during the Korean War. I also visited the Hyundai Motors Ulsan Automobile

Plant – the largest automobile plant in the world. We oversaw the production of Hyundai's leading electric vehicles (EVs) and hydrogen powered vehicles.

The 6th New Zealand-China Ministerial Climate Change Dialogue

- 6 The sixth New Zealand-China Ministerial Climate Change Dialogue took place on 29 August in Beijing.
- 7 Chinese Minister for Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu and I acknowledged the updated bilateral Climate Change Arrangement signed during Prime Minister Luxon's June 2025 visit to China. We agreed to develop a 3–5 year forward work plan to operationalise the Arrangement, covering areas such as green finance, carbon markets, nature-based solutions, EVs, renewable energy, adaptation and agricultural methane, to be submitted at the next ministerial dialogue.
- 8 I highlighted areas of existing cooperation, such as s9(2)(f)(iv)
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 9 I inquired about China's delayed submission of its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2), which Beijing subsequently released in late September. s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 10 Minister Huang and I agreed that climate and trade are closely linked. s6(b)(i)
- 11 We affirmed the value of face-to-face dialogue, s6(b)(i)
- 12 Following the dialogue, Minister Huang hosted a lunch for the New Zealand delegation. We then visited Tongzhi, Beijing's sub administrative area, to view Beijing landmark buildings and learn more about China's green construction standards.

Proactive release

- 13 I propose to proactively release this paper within 30 business days in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

Minister for Energy

Minister of Climate Change

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