

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 15 December 2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel Hon Todd McClay – November 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0386
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel Hon Todd McClay – November 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; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



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 - November 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 3 November 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 7 to 21 November 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 China to attend the China International Import Expo in Shanghai and undertake bilateral meetings in Beijing;
 - 1.2 the United Arab Emirates to launch the New Zealand – UAE Business Council;
 - 1.3 India to undertake bilateral engagements;
 - 1.4 Singapore to attend the first Ministerial Meeting of the Future of Investment and Trade Partnership;
 - 1.5 Melbourne, Australia to attend the Ministerial Commission of the Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$99,225 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Member of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by:
 - 4.1 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their agency;
 - 4.2 his partner in China, whose costs will be met by him personally;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry from 7 to 15 November 2025;
 - 5.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Forestry from 16 to 21 November 2025;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – November 2025

1. I seek approval to undertake Ministerial travel to China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Singapore and Australia from 7 to 21 November 2025, in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment.
2. The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

3. The primary purpose of travel to China is to support New Zealand exporters by attending the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. I will also travel to Beijing to meet with my trade and agriculture counterparts, ^{s6(a), s9(2)(i)}
4. I propose to stop via the UAE to launch the New Zealand – UAE Business Council. The New Zealand – UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force in August 2025. It is important that we continue to develop the trade and economic relationship to maximise the benefits of the CEPA.
5. The purpose of my travel to India is to continue to build the trade and economic relationship with India in support of the Free Trade Agreement currently under negotiation. On invitation of my Indian counterpart Commerce Minister Goyal, who I will be meeting with, I will speak at the Partnership Summit *Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order*, held in Minister Goyal's hometown of Visakhapatnam from 14-15 November. I will also lead a New Zealand forestry trade delegation to India, promoting New Zealand forestry exports.
6. On 18 November I will attend the first ministerial meeting of the newly formed Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership in Singapore. This is an action-oriented grouping, promoting a positive and innovative trade and investment agenda, at a time when the multilateral trading system is under unprecedented threat. Engagement in this event will cement New Zealand's role as a co-convenor of the grouping, shape the early stages of the agenda and membership. New Zealand will host the FIT Partnership in July 2026.
7. In Melbourne I will attend the Ministerial Commission of the Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), hosted by Australia from 20-21 November.

Ministerial Party

8. 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

9. Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Item	Cost
Airfares	\$72,000
Accommodation and meals	\$12,900
Transport and other costs	\$9,600
Contingency 5%	\$4,725
TOTAL	\$99,225

Acting Ministers

10. If my travel is approved, I propose the following colleagues act in my portfolios.

- 10.1. Hon Nicola Grigg – Agriculture
- 10.2. Hon Simon Watts – Forestry (8 -15 November)
- 10.3. Hon Tama Potaka – Forestry (16 - 21 November)
- 10.4. Hon Nicola Grigg – Trade and Investment

Proactive Release

11. I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendations

1. I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1. **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 7 November to 21 November for Ministerial related travel to China, the United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore and Australia;
- 1.2. **note** that I will be accompanied by a staff member from my office;
- 1.3. **note** that I will be supported by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade while on Ministerial business, whose costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 1.4. **agree** that in my absence:
 - 1.4.1. Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
 - 1.4.2. Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry (8 – 15 November)
 - 1.4.3. Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister of Forestry (16 – 21 November)
 - 1.4.4. Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister of Trade and Investment
- 1.5. **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$99,225 for the travel expenses, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Member of the Executive – Travel;

1.6. **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

Proactively Released by the Minister of Trade and Investment