

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 5 May 2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0076
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 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.



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 Todd McClay - January 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 24 March 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-25-SUB-0076 on his travel, from 10 to 17 January 2025, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the Prime Minister to sign the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty, and to undertake bilateral engagements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the
Minister for Trade and Enterprise

Restricted

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 10 January to 17 January in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment.

Report

- 1 The primary purpose of this travel was to sign the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), witnessed by the Prime Minister and UAE President. The CEPA is New Zealand's first trade agreement in the Gulf region and will unlock economic opportunities for New Zealand businesses, secure preferential access for our primary sector exporters, and strengthen supply chains.
- 2 I accompanied the Prime Minister in his bilateral programme which included the first ever meeting between a New Zealand Prime Minister and sitting UAE President. It also included meetings with a range of Emirati leaders and Ministers including Abu Dhabi Crown Prince ^{s6(a)} Sheikh Khaled bin Mohammed, Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Al Jabr, and an investment-focused lunch with Mohammed Al Suwaidi, UAE Minister of Investment and CEO of ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based sovereign wealth fund.
- 3 I also undertook a separate programme in Dubai, meeting with Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group. I hosted a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise event in Dubai, on behalf of the Prime Minister, celebrating the signature of the CEPA. The event was attended by UAE Ministers and key business leaders in the region and attracted significant local and international media attention.
- 4 Overall, this visit presented a key opportunity to demonstrate the value New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship ^{s6(a)} through meetings with the UAE President and other leaders, and leverage New Zealand's trade and economic relations with the ^{s6(a)} dynamic and internationalised economy, in particular to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

Proactive release

- 5 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendation

6 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

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Minister for Trade and Enterprise