

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 9 July 2025

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Investment:

<i>Title of Paper(s):</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May/June 2025	
Cabinet Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay May/June 2025	CAB-25-MIN-0169

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

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing 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 - May/June 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 26 May 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand from 29 May to 8 June 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Switzerland to attend the Future of Investment and Trade Partnership Ministerial Meeting;
 - 1.2 Paris, France to lead New Zealand's delegation at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Ministerial Council Meeting and undertake bilateral meetings;
 - 1.3 Brussels, Belgium s6(a)
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$44,570.40 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 also 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:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May/June 2025

- 1 I seek approval to travel to Switzerland, France and Belgium from 29 May to 8 June, 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 In Switzerland I will attend the Future of Investment and Trade Partnership (FIT-P) Ministerial Meeting with my Swiss, Singaporean, and UAE counterparts, s6(a)
- 4 In Paris I will lead New Zealand's delegation at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) over 2-4 June. Through the OECD we address common global challenges and promote good governance in both public and private sectors.
- 5 I will also meet with my trade counterparts in bilaterally and in smaller Ministerial groupings where I intend to progress key trade objectives. I will also seek meetings with French counterparts and engagements with French businesses who have interests in stepping up their investment in New Zealand.
- 6 In Brussels, s6(a)

∴ I will also seek meetings with EU representatives and host a reception attended by New Zealand business, their European business partners, and key EU officials to celebrate the first year of the EU FTA in force.

Ministerial Party

- 7 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

8 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Airfares and surface travel	\$ 30,448
Accommodation	\$ 7,050
Official representation and misc.	\$ 4,950
Contingency (5%)	\$ 2,122.40
Total:	\$ 44,570.40

Acting Ministers

9 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am out of the country:

10 Hon Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

11 Hon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry

12 Hon Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 28 May to 8 June 2025 for travel to Switzerland, France, and Belgium;

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 Hon Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

1.4.2 Hon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry

1.4.3 Hon Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

1.5 approve the estimated expenditure of \$44,570.40 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