

Proactive Release

Date: 18 September 2025

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

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision	CAB-25-MIN-0278
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – 17-18 July 2025	

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 and;
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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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 Nicola Grigg – July 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 18 August 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nicola Grigg under CAB-25-SUB-0278 on her travel from 17 to 18 July 2025 to Suva, Fiji, to attend the biennial Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers Meeting and undertake bilateral engagements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Investment

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – 17-18 July 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Suva, Fiji, from 17 to 18 July 2025 to attend the biennial Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) and undertake bilateral engagements.

Report

- 1 The purpose of my travel to Fiji was to represent New Zealand at the FTMM in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Investment. Attendance at ministerial level reinforced New Zealand's commitment to regional economic integration, with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) at the centre of our approach, and our support for regional trade architecture and Pacific resilience.
- 2 A key outcome of the meeting was a Joint Ministerial Statement.^{s6(a)}

The meeting was also an opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to advance Pacific trade priorities such as:

- 2.1 The international trade landscape and the central role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in maintaining a fair and predictable trade environment. I emphasised New Zealand's ongoing commitment to the rules-based trading system and encouraged Forum Members to accept the WTO Agreement on Fish Subsidies and continue negotiations on Additional Provisions to this Agreement. I also highlighted the funding available to Pacific members via the WTO Fish Fund to implement the WTO Agreement on Fish Subsidies, once accepted. New Zealand has contributed NZ\$310,000 to this fund.
- 2.2 Trade Ministers endorsed the Pacific Aid for Trade strategy, granted the PACER Plus Implementation Unit observer status at future Trade meetings. PACER Plus remains a cornerstone of the region's trade as the region's only reciprocal, comprehensive trade agreement, and observer status will further help with the unit's visibility and connectivity.
- 2.3 No consensus was reached on Pacific Labour Mobility Principles or the proposed Kava Declaration. Ministers agreed further work is needed.^{s6(a)}

New Zealand remains committed to supporting the Pacific's kava sector, including via PHAMA Plus and continued access

to our market. Pacific Trade Invest estimates the global kava market at US\$1.5–2 billion, driven by rising demand in Australia and the United States.

- 3 In the margins of the FTMM, I participated in a trilateral meeting with Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, SMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, and Australian Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Senator Nita Green. In this meeting I highlighted the value New Zealand places on Fiji's potential accession to the regional PACER Plus trade agreement and encouraged Fiji to continue considering accession.
s6(b)(i)
- 4 While in Fiji, I advanced the Government's Going for Growth agenda by attending the launch of the Fiji New Zealand Business Council's strategy to increase two-way trade to NZ\$2 billion by 2030 (a target set by our two Prime Ministers in June 2024). The launch event provided a platform to reinforce to Fiji businesses how PACER Plus would lock in market access to seven of Fiji's top ten markets and would bolster economic resilience.
- 5 My attendance also enabled conversations related to my Women portfolio, including a discussion with Fiji's Women, Children and Social Protection, Minister Kiran on the challenges affecting women and children in Fiji and the wider region. It also enabled a helpful sharing of views on the upcoming PIF Women Leaders Meeting (held in Fiji 22-25 July).

Proactive release

- 6 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate, as set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister of State for Trade and Investment