

Proactive Release

Date: 6 October 2025

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

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision	CAB-25-MIN-0316
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - September 2025	

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2025

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 15 September 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 23 to 26 September 2025, to travel to Malaysia to attend several ASEAN Economic Ministers' meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$22,575 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 costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.2 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - September 2025

- 1 I seek your approval to undertake Ministerial travel to Malaysia from 23 September to 26 September 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 purpose of my travel is to attend the following ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings across 24 and 25 September 2025:
 - ASEAN Economic Ministers-Closer Economic Relations (AEM-CER) Consultation (ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand)
 - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministers Meeting (AEM-CER group + China, Korea and Japan)
 - East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers Meeting (RCEP group + US, India, and Russia)
- 4 ASEAN is New Zealand's fourth largest trading partner with AANZFTA and RCEP as our key trade agreements. These meetings are the pinnacle trade and economic Ministers meetings in the ASEAN calendar. New Zealand Ministerial attendance reinforces our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN, in line with the Government's increased focus on our relationships in Southeast Asia. This year is particularly important as we celebrate 50 years of Dialogue relations with ASEAN and the recent Entry into Force of the AANZFTA Upgrade.
- 5 On the margins of these meetings, I will seek meetings with Malaysian, the United States, China, India, the European Union, and Australia Trade Ministers.

Ministerial Party

- 6 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

7 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Item	Cost
Airfares	\$18,000
Accommodation and meals	\$1,500
Transport and other costs	\$2,000
Contingency 5%	\$1,075
TOTAL	\$22,575

Acting Ministers

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

- 8.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard – Agriculture
- 8.2 Hon Andrew Hoggard – Forestry
- 8.3 Hon Nicola Grigg – Trade and Investment

Proactive release

9 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 23 – 26 September 2025 for Ministerial related travel to Malaysia;
- 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 Andrew Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

- 1.4.2 Hon Andrew Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Forestry
- 1.4.3 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment
- 1.5 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$22,575 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 the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment