

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 18 November 2025

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – August 2025</i></b>	CAB-25-MIN-0341
<b><i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – August 2025</i></b>	

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 - August 2025

Portfolio                      Trade and Investment

On 6 October 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-25-SUB-0341 on his travel, from 17 to 24 August 2025, to Saudi Arabia and the United States of America for bilateral meetings.

Diana Hawker  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – August 2025**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America (US), from Sunday 17 August to Sunday 24 August 2025, in my capacity as Minister of Trade and Investment.

#### **Report**

- 1 The primary purpose of my travel to Saudi Arabia was to reinforce the importance New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship with Saudi Arabia and continue discussions with counterparts on our growing trade and investment relationship, including in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (GCC FTA), concluded in October 2024, <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
<sup>s6(a)</sup> The visit also helped pave the way for a trade mission to Saudi Arabia from 14-17 September 2025.
- 2 I met with my trade ministerial counterpart HE Dr Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kassabi, Minister of Commerce and my agriculture counterpart HE Eng Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, building on several earlier meetings. I also met for the first time with HE Eng Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Minister of Investment. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the trade and investment relationship between Saudi Arabia and New Zealand, <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
<sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 3 At Minister Al-Falih's instigation, I also met with Manara Minerals, a new venture between the Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma'aden) and the Public Investment Fund (PIF); and ACWA Power, a developer, investor, co-owner and operator of power generation and desalination plants, to introduce them to New Zealand's business environment and investment opportunities.
- 4 My time in Saudi Arabia included an opportunity to visit the Giga project Qiddiya City – a large-scale, ambitious development initiative under Saudi Vision 2030 – Saudi Arabia's strategic framework for economic and social transformation.
- 5 My visit to Washington DC, US on 20-21 August was to register New Zealand's concern about the tariff escalation at ministerial level, explain the commercial impacts, the perception among New Zealanders about the tariff escalation, and canvass options for minimising our disadvantage, and establishing a path to return to a level playing field.

- 6 I held two meetings with Trump Administration cabinet members; my fourth engagement with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, and a first meeting with Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins. At these meetings I registered concern over New Zealand's tariff rate and explained the unintended consequences, including how tariffs are eroding our position in the US market against competitors with known unfair trade practices, and further stressed the complementary nature of New Zealand exports.
- 7 USTR Greer and I agreed to continue discussions on our bilateral trade concerns. US and New Zealand officials would also work together on shared trade concerns, s6(a)
- 8 We also agreed to explore where building coalitions may be possible in the WTO context, including on the e-commerce moratorium.

**Proactive release**

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

**Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment