

Proactive Release

Date: 8 December 2025

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

| <i>Title of papers</i> | <i>Title of minute</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – October 2025 | CAB-25-MIN-0368 |
| Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – October/November 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;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

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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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – October 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 20 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 27 October to 1 November 2025, to travel to:

s6(a)

1.3 the Republic of Korea to attend the APEC Leaders' meeting;

- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member;

3 s9(2)(g)(i)

- 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 Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;

5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;

5.3 Hon Chris Penk 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 – October/November 2025

1. I seek approval to undertake Ministerial travel to s6(a) the Republic of Korea from 27 October to 1 November 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

s6(a)

8. I intend to travel to the Republic of Korea to accompany the Prime Minister to the APEC Leader's meeting, where we will announce the launch of negotiations for the Green Economy Partnership Agreement with Singapore and Chile. s6(a)
9. s6(a) I intend to travel to the Republic of Korea earlier to attend the full APEC Annual Ministerial Meeting.

Ministerial Party

10. 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.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Acting Ministers

12. If my travel is approved, I note that the House is not sitting during my absence. I propose the following colleagues act in my portfolios.

- 12.1. Hon Mark Patterson – Agriculture
- 12.2. Hon Simon Watts – Forestry
- 12.3. Hon Chris Penk – Trade and Investment

Proactive Release

13. I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendations

1. I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1. authorise my absence from New Zealand from 27 October to 1 November for Ministerial related travel to s6(a) the Republic of Korea;
- 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 Mark Patterson will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

1.4.2. Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry

1.4.3. Hon Chris Penk will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

1.5. s9(2)(g)(i)

1.6. note that the House is not sitting during my absence

1.7. note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment