

# Proactive Release

Date: 12 December 2025

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

<b><i>Title of papers:</i></b>	<b><i>Title of minute:</i></b>
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay – November 2025	CAB-25-MIN-0387
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay – PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting 25 November to 29 November	

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay - November 2025

Portfolio                      Trade and Investment

On 3 November 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Scott Simpson from New Zealand, from 25 to 29 November 2025, to travel to Honiara, Solomon Islands to attend the Annual Ministerial Meeting of PACER Plus, on behalf of Hon Todd McClay;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$14,700 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, Hon Chris Penk act as Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Minister for ACC;
- 6        **noted** that leave from the House has been approved.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

## **In Confidence**

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting 25 to 29 November**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval for Hon Scott Simpson to travel on my behalf to Honiara, Solomon Islands from 25 November to 29 November.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

#### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The purpose of Hon Simpsons' travel is to attend the Annual Ministerial Meeting (PPMM) of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus on 27 November 2025. All Parties to PACER Plus will have Ministers in attendance and there may also be observers from Fiji, Nauru and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.
- 4 PACER Plus is a core strategic trade agreement for New Zealand. The PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting is the apex of the PACER Plus governance structures, where PACER Plus direction is set and decisions are made on the future focus of the Agreement. Hon Simpsons' attendance will reaffirm New Zealand's high-level support for PACER Plus (as a donor and party) and reinforce New Zealand's reputation as an integral member in Pacific regional architecture. While in Honiara, Hon Simpson will announce New Zealand's new funding support for a five-year extension to the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation Programme.
- 5 On the margins of the meeting, Hon Simpson will attend a High Commission networking event, a dinner hosted by the Solomon Islands, and undertake a short business engagement programme.

#### **Ministerial Party**

- 6 Hon Simpson will be accompanied by a member of staff from his office. He will also be supported by Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

(MFAT) as required during travel. MFAT will cover the costs of their officials. All costs for MFAT will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

## Travel Costs

7 Indicative costs for Hon Simpson's Ministerial travel are:

Airfares: \$10,000

Accommodation: \$3,500

Transport and security \$500

Hospitality \$0

Contingency (5%) \$700

**Total: \$14,700**

## Acting Ministers

8 If Hon Simpson's travel is approved, I propose the following Ministers act in his portfolios:

8.1 Hon Chris Penk– Commerce and Consumer Affairs

8.2 Hon Chris Penk – ACC

## Proactive release

9 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

## Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 **authorise** Hon Simpson's absence from New Zealand from 25 to 2 November to travel to Honiara, Solomon Islands, to attend the Annual Ministerial Meeting of PACER Plus;

1.2 **agree** that Hon Simpson will be accompanied by a staff member from his office;



- 1.3 **note** Hon Simpson 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 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$14,700 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.5 **agree** that in his absence:
- 1.5.1 Hon Penk will be acting Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs
- 1.5.2 Hon Penk will be acting Minister for ACC
- 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