

Proactive Release

Date: 18 December 2025

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

Title of Paper	Title of Minute
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2025	CAB-25-MIN-0414

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.

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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 Todd McClay – September 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 24 November 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-25-SUB-0414 on his travel, from 13 to 18 September 2025, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to lead a high-level trade mission.

Rachel Hayward
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 – September 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 13 - 18 September in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment.

Report

1. The primary purpose of my visit was to lead a trade mission to Saudi Arabia to promote and strengthen trade and investment opportunities between New Zealand and the Kingdom.
2. The mission aimed to leverage momentum following the conclusion of negotiations on the New Zealand–Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (NZ–GCC FTA) and to position New Zealand businesses for growth in this significant market.
3. I was accompanied by a delegation of 20 senior representatives from sectors including food and beverage, construction, technology, creative industries, and services.
4. The programme included bilateral meetings with Saudi Ministers of Commerce and Investment, business matchmaking sessions, and promotional events showcasing New Zealand's premium products and expertise.
5. Key outcomes included:
 - a. Positive bilateral meetings with Commerce Minister Dr Majid Al-Kassabi and Investment Minister Khalid Al-Falih. ^{s6(a)}
 - b. Confirmation that the NZ-GCC FTA is on track, with legal verification complete and ceremonial arrangements under discussion. ^{s6(a)}
 - c. ^{s6(a)}
 - d. Launch of the Saudi-New Zealand Business Council through a joint Vision Statement.

- e. Signing of five commercial agreements valued at approximately NZ\$100 million across sectors including creative industries and agribusiness.
 - f. Engagements with major entities such as the Public Investment Fund, Ministry of Investment, and Expo 2030 organisers, providing opportunities for New Zealand companies in construction, tourism, and food security.
6. The mission effectively showcased New Zealand's world-class value proposition and strengthened our economic relationship with Saudi Arabia. It also positioned New Zealand businesses to take advantage of opportunities aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

Proactive release

7. I propose this paper be proactively released in part.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment