

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 9 June 2025

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

Title of paper:	Reference:
Cabinet Minute of Decision - Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May 2025	CAB-25-MIN-0137
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May 2025	

Proactively Released by the Minister of Trade and Investment



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 - May 2025

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 28 April 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 10 to 17 May 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 the United Kingdom to participate in the first annual New Zealand-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Joint Ministerial Committee;
 - 1.2 the Republic of Korea to lead the New Zealand delegation at the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade ministerial meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from his office;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$46,725.00 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 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by his partner, whose costs will be met personally;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 6.2 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 6.3 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 7 **noted** that leave from Parliament 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 Todd McClay – May 2025

- 1 I seek approval to travel to United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Korea from 10 to 17 May, in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister of Agriculture.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my visit to the UK is to participate in the first annual New Zealand-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Joint Ministerial Committee with my counterpart, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds. This meeting is a requirement from the FTA and will mark the second anniversary of the agreement entering into force.
- 4 I will also seek calls in relation to agriculture and investment whilst in the UK.
- 5 In the Republic of Korea, I will lead New Zealand's delegation at the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade ministerial meeting (MRT). The APEC MRT is held annually and is attended by a significant number of trade ministers from APEC countries.
- 6 I intend to undertake a number of bilateral meetings at APEC, including with the newly appointed United States Trade Representative. This will be the first opportunity for an in-person meeting with USTR Ambassador Greer.
- 7 I will also attend a meeting of CPTPP members and meet with the WTO Secretary General.

Ministerial Party

- 8 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.
- 9 I note that my partner will accompany me to the UK and Korea and confirm that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Travel Costs

10 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Airfares	\$ 36,500.00
Accommodation	\$ 5,000.00
Hospitality & misc	\$ 3,000.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 2,225.00
Total:	\$ 46,725.00

Acting Ministers

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

11.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

11.2 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister of Forestry

11.3 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 10 – 17 May 2025 for travel to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea;

1.2 note I will be accompanied by one member of staff;

1.3 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by within the Ministry's baseline budget;

1.4 note that my partner will accompany me to the UK and Korea and confirm that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer;

1.5 agree that in my absence:

1.5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

1.5.2 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister of Forestry

1.5.3 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

1.6 approve the estimated expenditure of \$46,725 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;

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

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

Proactively Released by the Minister of Trade and Investment