

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 6 October 2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0289
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2025</i>	

Proactively released by the
Minister for Trade and Investment



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2025

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 25 August 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 13 to 18 September 2025, to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to lead a high-level trade mission;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$62,475 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:
 - 4.1 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, whose costs will be met by their respective agencies;
 - 4.2 a business delegation, whose costs will be met personally;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 5.2 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Forestry;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - September 2025

- 1 I seek your approval to undertake Ministerial travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 13 to 18 September 2025 in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment, to lead a high-level trade mission.
- 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

- 3 The primary purpose of my visit is to lead a business delegation to Riyadh to promote and strengthen trade and investment opportunities between New Zealand and Saudi Arabia.
- 4 Saudi Arabia is the largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa, offering strong export potential, particularly in agriculture, food security, and construction.
- 5 The trade mission will serve to strategically position New Zealand to capitalise on the enhanced trade architecture established through negotiations of the New Zealand–Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement, due to be signed this year.
- 6 The business delegation comprises approximately 15-20 senior representatives from leading New Zealand companies across the food and beverage, construction, technology, and services sectors. Their visit to Riyadh is supported by a 2.5 day programme designed to maximise commercial engagement and visibility.
- 7 Activities will include high-level meetings with Saudi counterparts in trade and agriculture, targeted site visits to major infrastructure and Giga projects, and participation in key events such as signing ceremonies and a buyer reception with key local decision makers. The delegation will also explore procurement opportunities linked to EXPO 2030, positioning New Zealand firms to contribute to and benefit from Saudi Arabia's ambitious development agenda.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I will be accompanied by a staff member from my office. Travel expenses for the Ministerial portions of this trip will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 9 I will be supported by Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Trade & Enterprise who will accompany the delegation. Officials' costs will be covered from within their respective baseline budgets.

Travel Costs

- 10 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Item	Cost
Airfares x 2	\$30,000
Accommodation and meals x 2	\$3,500
Events and Ground Transport (1/3rd share across NZTE, MFAT, OMTI)	\$26,000
Contingency 5%	\$2,975
TOTAL	\$62,475

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 Nicola Grigg – Agriculture
- 11.2 Hon Tama Potaka – Forestry
- 11.3 Hon Nicola Grigg – Trade and Investment

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1. **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 13 September – 18 September 2025 for Ministerial related travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- 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 and New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, whose costs will be met by their organisations

1.4. **agree** that in my absence:

1.4.1. Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister Agriculture

1.4.2. Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister of Forestry

1.4.3. Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade and Investment

1.5. **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$62,475 for the travel expenses, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Member of the Executive – Travel;

1.6. **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

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