

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 18/11/2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision : Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay - October 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0346
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay - October 2025</i>	



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 Chris Penk on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay - October 2025

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 6 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Chris Penk from New Zealand, from 8 to 12 October 2025 to Gqeberha, South Africa to attend the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Investment;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$39,480 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:
 - 5.1 Hon James Meager act as Minister for Building and Construction;
 - 5.2 Hon Scott Simpson act as Minister for Small Business and Manufacturing;
 - 5.3 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.4 Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Veterans;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been approved.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – G20 Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting October 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval for Hon Chris Penk to travel on my behalf to Gqeberha, South Africa from 8 October to 12 October.
- 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 Penk's travel is to attend the annual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting (TIMM) of the Group of 20 (G20). The TIMM is well-attended by trade and economic-focused Ministers and is a platform where the world's major economies try to collectively progress global trade challenges. This year's overarching theme, chosen by South Africa as 2025 host, is "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability".
- 4 While not a member of the G20, New Zealand was invited to participate as a guest in the Trade and Investment Workstream by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. This invitation is a positive reflection of New Zealand's international reputation in the trade space, as well as the strength of our relationships with South Africa. New Zealand Ministerial attendance is an important opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's support for the G20, including the work this year on strengthening the rules-based international trading system during turbulent times.
- 5 On the margins of the meeting, Hon Penk will have the opportunity to engage with counterpart Ministers, including the Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, and undertake a short bilateral programme in Johannesburg enroute to Gqeberha.

Ministerial Party

- 6 He will be accompanied by a member of staff from his office. Hon Penk 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 Penk's Ministerial travel are:

Airfares:	\$30,000
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Transport and security	\$1,650
Hospitality	\$1,950
Contingency (5%)	\$1,880

Total: \$39,480

Acting Ministers

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

- 8.1 Hon Meager – Building and Construction
- 8.2 Hon Simpson – Small Business and Manufacturing
- 8.3 Hon Grigg – Land Information
- 8.4 Hon Simmonds – Veterans

Proactive release

9 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 **authorise** Hon Penk's absence from New Zealand from 8 to 12 October to travel to Gqeberha, South Africa to attend the Group of 20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting;
- 1.2 **agree** that Hon Penk will be accompanied by a staff member from his office;
- 1.3 **note** Hon Penk 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 \$39,480 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 Meager will be acting Minister for Building and Construction.
 - 1.5.2 Hon Simpson will be acting Minister for Small Business and Manufacturing
 - 1.5.3 Hon Grigg will be acting Minister for Land Information
 - 1.5.4 Hon Simmonds will be acting Minister for Veterans
- 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