

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11 March 2026

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 – Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0008
<i>Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2026</i>	

Proactively Released by the Minister for 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.

Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2026

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 27 January 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **retrospectively authorised** his absence from New Zealand, from 20 to 25 January 2026, to travel to Davos, Switzerland to attend a World Trade Organisation mini-Ministerial meeting and hold bilateral meetings with key trade and investment partners;
- 2 **noted** the report on the travel referred to above, as outlined in CAB-26-SUB-0008;
- 3 **retrospectively approved** the expenditure of up to \$22,365 for the travel expenses of the Minister as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he was accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs were met by their agency;
- 5 **noted** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Nicola Grigg acted as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts acted as Minister of Forestry;
- 6 **noted** that the House was not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet’s retrospective approval to travel to Davos, Switzerland from 20 January to 25 January 2026. The purpose of my travel to Switzerland is to attend a World Trade Organisation (WTO) mini-Ministerial meeting and hold bilateral meetings with key trade and investment partners.
- 2 The Prime Minister approved the travel in-principle, and the House is not sitting during my absence.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my travel to Switzerland was to attend the informal WTO mini-Ministerial meeting in Davos. This provided a timely and valuable opportunity to engage with influential counterparts in preparation for the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cameroon in March 2026. Attendance also provided opportunities for bilateral meetings with counterpart Ministers from many of New Zealand’s key trade and investment partners. I also attended an informal meeting of the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership. This was helpful in informing the agenda for New Zealand’s hosting of the next ministerial meeting in June/July 2026.

Ministerial Party

- 4 I was not accompanied by a member of my staff. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) supported my travel. All costs for MFAT staff were covered from within the Ministry’s baseline budget.

Travel Costs

- 5 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares and facilitation:	\$18,500
Accommodation:	\$500
Ground transport:	\$2,800
Contingency (5%)	\$1,065
Total:	\$ 22,365

Acting Ministers

6 If my travel is approved. I propose that the following colleagues would in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.

- Minister Grigg – Agriculture and Trade and Investment
- Minister Watts – Forestry

Proactive release

7 This paper will be proactively released within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet retrospectively:

2 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 20 January to 25 January to travel to Davos, Switzerland to attend a WTO mini-Ministerial meeting and hold bilateral meetings with key trade and investment partners;

3 note that I was not be accompanied by a member of staff;

4 approve the estimated expenditure of \$22,365 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

5 note that I was accompanied by officials from MFAT, whose travel costs were met by the Ministry;

5.1 agree that in my absence:

6 Hon Nicola Grigg acted as Minister for Agriculture and Trade and Investment;

7 Hon Simon Watts acted as Minister of Forestry;

8 note that the House was not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment