

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 26/10/2026

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel_Hon Dr Shane Reti on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026	CAB-26-MIN-0296
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – Philippines, September 2026	



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 Dr Shane Reti on Behalf of Hon Todd McClay – September 2026

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 14 September 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Dr Shane Reti from New Zealand, from 19 to 23 September 2026, to travel to Manila, the Philippines to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Ministers Meeting on behalf of the Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 2 **agreed** that Hon Dr Reti be accompanied by one member of staff from the office of Hon Todd McClay;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$33,860 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that Hon Dr Reti 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 leave from the House has been approved.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti on behalf of Hon Todd McClay – Philippines, September 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval for Hon Dr Shane Reti to travel on my behalf to Manila, the Philippines, from 19 September to 23 September.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of Hon Dr Reti's travel is to lead the New Zealand delegation at the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministers Meeting in Manila on 21 September. This is the premier annual summit for ASEAN economic ministers, with many senior ministers in attendance.
- 4 Hon Dr Reti's attendance will support New Zealand's efforts to strengthen relations with Southeast Asian partners under our Foreign Policy Reset and signal our commitment to regional economic integration.
- 5 Hon Dr Reti will also carry out a bilateral programme in Manila on 22 September. This will demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the new Comprehensive Partnership with the Philippines, which was announced by Minister Peters in Manila in July.

Ministerial Party

- 6 Hon Dr Reti will be accompanied by a member of staff from my office. He 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 Dr Reti Ministerial travel are:

Airfares	\$28,000
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Accommodation/meals	\$2,250
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~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

Transport	\$600
Events	\$800
Gifts	\$600
Contingency (5%)	\$1,610
Total: \$33,860	

Proactive release

8 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 **authorise** Hon Dr Reti's absence from New Zealand from 19 to 23 September to travel to Manila, the Philippines to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting, and RCEP Ministers Meeting;
- 1.2 **agree** that Hon Dr Reti will be accompanied by a staff member from my office;
- 1.3 **note** Hon Dr Reti 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 \$33,860 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.5 **note** that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

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