

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 30/06/2026

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

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0166
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May 2026</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 Todd McClay – May 2026

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 18 May 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 20 to 27 May 2026, to travel to China to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Suzhou and undertake a bilateral programme in Chengdu and Haikou;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$44,100 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 travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mike Butterick act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 5.3 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been sought.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to China from 20 May to 27 May. The purpose of my visit is to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) meeting in Suzhou and conduct a bilateral trade and agriculture programme in support of New Zealand's relationship with China. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 2 My participation in the APEC MRT meeting will demonstrate New Zealand's ongoing leadership within APEC on key emerging trade issues, including trade facilitation, sustainability and supply chain resilience. These issues are pertinent to the Government's goal to double the value of New Zealand's exports within 10 years.
- 3 I will take advantage of APEC's convening power to seek meetings with key regional partners to progress trade discussions, discuss supply chain and energy security issues, and push for strengthening and implementing our existing network of free trade agreements.
- 4 I will also undertake a bilateral agriculture and trade programme while in China, visiting Chengdu and Haikou, from 23 to 26 May.

Ministerial Party

- 5 I will be accompanied by one member of staff from my office. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also support my travel. All costs for MFAT staff will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

Travel Costs

- 6 The estimated cost of this travel is below:

Airfares:	\$31,000
Accommodation/Meals	\$4,000
Events	\$5,000
Gifts	\$1,000

Contingency (5%)	\$2,100
Total:	\$44,100

Acting Ministers

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

7.1 Minister Butterick – Agriculture

7.2 Minister Grigg – Trade and Investment

7.3 Minister Watts – Forestry

Proactive release

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

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

2 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 20 May to 27 May to travel to China to attend the APEC MRT meeting in Suzhou and undertake a bilateral programme in China;

3 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

4 approve the estimated expenditure of \$44,100 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

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

6 agree that in my absence:

6.1 Hon Mike Butterick will act as Minister for Agriculture;

6.2 Hon Nicola Grigg will act as Minister for Trade and Investment;

6.3 Hon Simon Watts will act as Minister of Forestry;

7 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment