

Proactive Release

Published on: 14 August 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 – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April 2026</i>	CAB-MIN-0128
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April 2026</i>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



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 – April 2026

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 20 April 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 23 to 28 April 2026, to travel to:
 - 1.1 New Delhi and Agra, India, to meet with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to sign the India – New Zealand Free Trade Agreement;
 - 1.2 s6(a)
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$32,130 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, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
 - 4.2 his partner, whose costs will be met by him personally;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mike Butterick act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House 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 – April 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New Delhi and Agra, India from 23 April to 28 April. The purpose of my travel is to meet with my Indian counterpart, Commerce Minister Goyal, and sign the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 We have made excellent progress in strengthening trade and economic connections with India, including through the conclusion of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement negotiations in December 2025.
- 4 Minister of Commerce Piyush Goyal has agreed to meet me in New Delhi on 27 April and sign the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. This would be a landmark moment for New Zealand. At Minister Goyal's invitation, I will also visit Agra.
- 5 I request that my partner travel to India with me and confirm that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- 6 s6(a)

Ministerial Party

- 7 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

- 8 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Airfares:	\$26,000
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Gifts:	\$600
Contingency (5%)	\$1,530

Total: \$32,130

Acting Ministers

- 9 If my travel is approved. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.
- 10 Minister Butterick – Agriculture.
- 11 Minister Grigg – Trade and Investment.
- 12 Minister Watts – Forestry.

Proactive release

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

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
 - 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 23 April to 28 April to travel to New Delhi and Agra, India to meet with my Indian counterpart, Commerce Minister Goyal, to sign the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement;
 - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$32,130 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from MFAT, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Mike Butterick will act as Minister for Agriculture;
 - 1.5.2 Hon Nicola Grigg will act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 1.5.3 Hon Simon Watts will act as Minister of Forestry.
 - 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from/ the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment