

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 9 February 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 – December 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0435
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – December 2025</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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – December 2025

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 1 December 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 7 to 9 December 2025, to travel to New Delhi, India to meet with Commerce Minister Goyal, to further Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$30,475 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 Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament 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 – December 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New Delhi, India from 7 December to 9 December. The purpose of my travel is to meet with my Indian counterpart, Commerce Minister Goyal, to further Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with India, with a view to closing the negotiations.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my travel to India is to meet with my counterpart, Commerce Minister Goyal, to further FTA negotiations with India, with a view to closing the negotiations.

Ministerial Party

- 4 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

- 5 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$29,000
Accommodation/Meals	\$500
Gifts:	\$0
Contingency (5%)	\$1,475
Total:	\$ 30,475

Acting Ministers

- 6 If my travel is approved. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.
- 7 Hon Nicola Grigg – Agriculture and Trade and Investment.
- 8 Hon Simon Watts – Forestry.

Proactive release

- 9 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 7 December to 9 December to travel to New Delhi, India to meet with my Indian counterpart, Commerce Minister Goyal, to further FTA negotiations with India, with a view to closing the negotiations;
 - 2.1 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$30,475 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 3.1 note that I will be accompanied by officials from MFAT, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 3.2 agree that in my absence:
 - 3.2.1 Hon Nicola Grigg will act as Minister for Agriculture and Trade and Investment;
 - 3.2.2 Hon Simon Watts will act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 3.3 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment