

# Proactive Release

Date: 19 August 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth:

***Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker [Chile, Belgium and France]***

***(CAB-19-MIN-221)***

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 Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act 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 redaction codes:

- 9(2)(f)(iv): the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



# 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 David Parker

**Portfolio** Trade and Export Growth

On 13 May 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon David Parker from New Zealand, from 16 to 26 May 2019, to travel to:
  - 1.1 Chile for the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting;
  - 1.2 Paris, France for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting;
  - 1.3 Brussels, Belgium for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> 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 be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Attorney-General;
  - 5.2 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Economic Development;
  - 5.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment;
  - 5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Trade and Export Growth from 16 to 22 May 2019;
  - 5.5 Hon Dr Megan Woods act as Minister of Trade and Export Growth from 23 to 26 May 2019;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution: (see over)**

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon David Parker

Proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Chile and then on to Europe from 16 to 26 May 2019 in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Export Growth.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The primary purpose of my visit is to engage on trade issues in meetings of two key multilateral fora, the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting (MRT) in Chile and the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) in Paris. These are two of the major multilateral set-pieces that New Zealand attends annually at ministerial level.
- 4 My attendance at the MRT meeting will provide the opportunity to reaffirm New Zealand's commitment to open regionalism in the Asia-Pacific and support the relevance and effectiveness of APEC and our trade and economic interests in it, as we build to host in 2021. In addition to bilateral meetings with my counterparts, I will attend a number of side events in the margins of the MRT. A third Minister level meeting of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) will be a chance to review the joint work programme, consider new members and set the focus of work for the year ahead, following the launch of the initiative in Port Moresby last year. I also hope to launch the Digital Economy Partnership with Trade Ministers from Chile and Singapore in the margins of MRT, with a view to concluding an arrangement by November this year. A meeting of CPTPP Ministers is also a possibility but this is not yet confirmed.
- 5 My attendance at the MCM will provide an opportunity to affirm the importance New Zealand attaches to the OECD's work in support of an open, rules-based international order, and productive, sustainable and inclusive growth. Slovakia is chairing the 2019 MCM under the theme of Harnessing Digital Transition for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges. The theme sets the scene for a series of discussions among Ministers on domestic and international policy issues including digital taxation, the future of work, circular economy and digital trade – many of which are also key to the Government's strategy for a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy, and improving wellbeing in the digital age. I will use the OECD forum to share New Zealand's world-leading work in areas such as digital identity and unique business numbers. I hope the OECD forum also helps inform the direction of future work and international cooperation on digital

policy issues that are key to the Government's objectives.

- 6 A key objective for both meetings will be to reaffirm New Zealand's support for the multilateral trading system and our active engagement in WTO reform efforts to safeguard and strengthen the institution. In the margins of the OECD, the informal OECD WTO Ministerial will be one of the key opportunities for engagement on WTO issues outside of the January Davos Ministerial meeting and WTO Ministerial Conferences. A meeting of the WTO Reform Small Group chaired by Canada will be an opportunity for the group to send a clear message on the increasingly urgent need to resolve the Appellate Body impasse and conclude fisheries subsidies disciplines this year. Ministers will also likely review the recent efforts to improve the ongoing deliberative function of the WTO Committees through initiatives addressing notifications and consideration of specific trade concerns, as well as efforts to establish a more constructive dialogue on development.
- 7 I will also take the opportunity in my engagements at the MRT meeting and the MCM to further the work being done by the Prime Minister as part of the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. This will involve promoting key aspects of the Call in informal and formal settings and may require working to defuse any remaining Ministerial opposition with a view to pursuing the inclusion of appropriate language in the various negotiated statements.
- 8 Bilateral engagements in the margins of the OECD are an opportunity to push the case for our FTA with the EU directly with trade ministers from a range of EU member states, <sup>s9(2)(j)</sup>
- 9 After the MCM I will travel to Brussels for bilateral meetings with the EU. A lunch with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom is an opportunity to press a key EU Commission decision maker on the FTA. I am also seeking meetings with EU Commissioner Julian King, responsible for cyber security and leading on efforts to tackle terrorism content online and Commissioner Margrethe Vestager who has experience as EU Competition Commissioner dealing with large tech companies.

### **Ministerial Party**

- 10 I will be accompanied by one staff member. Final costs will be determined once the itinerary is confirmed but the estimated cost of travel for me and my staff member is <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
- 11 Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will accompany me in Chile and one official will join me in Paris and Brussels. Their travel costs will be met by their departmental budget.

## Travel Costs

12 The estimated costs of travel for me and my staff member are:

Airfares:	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation:	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Per Diem	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Airport Facilitation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Hospitality	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Gifts	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Contingency (10%)	s9(2)(f)(iv)
<b>Total:</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv)

## Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Andrew Little;

Economic Development: Hon Grant Robertson;

Environment: Hon Nanaia Mahuta;

Trade and Export Growth: Rt Hon Winston Peters (16 -22 May).

Hon Megan Woods (22 -26 May).

## Proactive release

14 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 16 to 26 May 2019 to travel to Chile for the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting (MRT) and then on to Europe for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) in Paris and a short bilateral visit in Brussels;

15.2 agree that I be accompanied by a member of staff;

- 15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> for the travel expenses of me and my staff member, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 15.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their departmental budget;
- 15.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Attorney-General); Hon Grant Robertson (Economic Development); Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Environment); Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Megan Woods (Trade and Export Growth) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 15.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth