

# Proactive Release

Date: 30 November 2022

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Proposed Overseas Travel: Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 9-14 November 2022	CAB-22-MIN-0491



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford

Portfolio                      Trade and Export Growth

On 7 November 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Phil Twyford from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being approved, from 9 to 13 November 2022, to travel to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to attend a special ASEAN Economic Ministers Closer Economic Relations meeting;
- 2        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$16,560 for the Ministerial travel expenses as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive Travel);
- 3        **noted** that he will be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence Hon Aupito William Sio act as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 5        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**In Confidence**

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth  
Chair, Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 9-14 NOVEMBER, 2022**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from Wednesday 9 November until Monday 14 November to attend a special ASEAN Economic Ministers Closer Economic Relations (AEM-CER) meeting to conclude the AANZFTA upgrade negotiations. I will stay on for the announcement of the upgrade with the Prime Minister at the East Asia Summit on Saturday 12 November.
- 2 At the Ministerial discussions held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in September, it was agreed that lead negotiators would continue working on remaining issues, with outcomes to be endorsed by a virtual Ministerial meeting in October. As the negotiations have continued, however, it has become clear that a Ministerial meeting will be required to resolve politically sensitive issues and determine the final package of negotiations. As a consequence, ASEAN and Australia have pushed for a final in-person meeting of ministers to conclude the negotiations.
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

**Purpose of Travel**

**ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS MEETINGS**

- 4 The purpose of this travel is to attend, in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth, the special ASEAN Economic Ministers Closer Economic Relations Meeting to conclude the AANZFTA upgrade negotiations. This will involve:
  - securing the conclusion of the AANZFTA upgrade by resolving any remaining issues with my ASEAN and Australia counterparts, for announcement by the Prime Minister and other Leaders at the East Asia Summit

- ensuring New Zealand's interests are protected and progressed in this upgrade through meaningful engagement in bilateral meetings and side discussions, including with co-chairs Australia and Brunei
- reinforcing commitment to our partnership with ASEAN and to ASEAN-centrality in the Indo-Pacific region, through constructive engagement with AEM-CER Ministers.

5 Whilst in Phnom Penh, I will:

- Undertake bilateral meetings and side discussions with attending Ministers
- Prepare for and attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Closer Economic Relations special meeting on the AANZFTA upgrade
- Attend the public announcement by the Prime Minister of the conclusion of the upgrade
- Attend the gala dinner alongside ASEAN Economic Ministers

6 Logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of the conference. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored.

#### Travel

7 If travel is approved, I propose to depart New Zealand on Wednesday 9 November. As a risk mitigation measure, I will only travel if I return a negative pre-departure test on Tuesday 8 November. I will arrive back in New Zealand on Monday 14 November.

#### Ministerial Party

8 I would be accompanied by one official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

#### Costs of Travel

9 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares	\$11,500
Accommodation and other expenses	\$1,800
Hospitality and gifts	\$500
Contingency	\$2,760

**Total** **\$16,560**

10 Contingency costs are based on 20% of the overall cost of this trip, due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

11 Expenditure of up to \$16,560 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

### **Acting Ministers**

12 If travel is approved, I propose that Hon Aupito William Sio act in my Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control portfolio.

### **Proactive release**

13 I propose to release this paper proactively, subject to any necessary redactions consistent with the Official Information Act.

### **Recommendations**

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- approve my travel to Cambodia
- approve the expenditure of \$16,560 for the travel as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs- Members of the Executive- Travel
- agree that in my absence Hon Aupito William Sio act as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control
- note I will be accompanied by one official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by the Ministry
- note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Phil Twyford

**Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth**