



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Singapore and Japan 18-24 April 2022**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Singapore and Japan 18-24 April 2022  
(CAB-22-SUB-0123 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Damien O'Connor  
(CAB-22-MIN-0123 refers)

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 section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction code:**

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

## **Proposed Overseas Travel: Singapore and Japan 18-24 April 2022**

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore and Japan from 18 April to 24 April 2022 to lead a trade mission to support New Zealand's reconnection with two important partners in the Indo-Pacific.

2 The Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor, will accompany me as part of the delegation and this paper seeks approval for his travel also. House leave for Minister O'Connor has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Reasons for Travel**

3 My travel to Singapore and Japan, if approved, will be my first international engagement since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It will be one of many steps that New Zealand is taking to reconnect with the world following the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. My travel will have a focus on strengthening partnerships between government, business, tourism and industries in these priority markets.

4 The objectives of the visit are to:

- Support New Zealand's reconnection and Trade Recovery Strategy, including supporting exporters to rebuild connections and profile in these key markets;
- Share perspectives with two key Indo-Pacific partners on a challenging geopolitical agenda following Russia's invasion of Ukraine;
- Promote the progressive reopening of New Zealand's border to tourists and students;
- Underline our shared commitment to the Indo-Pacific region's sustainable recovery from COVID-19; and
- Accelerate New Zealand's trade-led economic recovery, by raising the profile of New Zealand's export offerings in Singapore and Japan and increasing awareness of New Zealand's high value products and services.

5 I will be accompanied by a targeted business delegation of senior delegates, representing a range of New Zealand companies from across the food and beverage, technology, tourism and renewable energy sectors, with a focus on sustainability and innovation.

## **Bilateral considerations**

6 The pandemic has highlighted the importance of our longstanding relationships with Singapore and Japan. The two countries are among New Zealand's top five trading partners. Japan was New Zealand's fourth largest trading partner in 2021, with two-way trade totalling \$8.34 billion to the year ended December 2021. Singapore was our fifth largest trading partner, with \$6.56 billion in two-way trade over the same period.

7 Singapore and New Zealand have a close and collaborative relationship based on shared history and interests. Our complementary economies and open outlook have helped us build a strong bilateral relationship over the years. Singapore was New Zealand's second free trade partner and this visit coincides with the third anniversary of the New Zealand-Singapore Enhanced Partnership. Singapore is also a key hub for supply chains in which New Zealand is involved and throughout the pandemic has held regular exchanges with New Zealand about health and border responses.

8 Japan and New Zealand have long enjoyed a close and productive partnership based on shared values and interests. This trip coincides with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. New Zealand's relationship with Japan includes cultural, sporting, and economic ties, and Japan was selected as the destination for the New Zealand's Government's first virtual trade mission last year. My visit with the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor, is an opportunity to advance the NZ-Japan Strategic Cooperative Partnership with a particular focus on matters of current geopolitical concern.

## **Outline of proposed visit**

9 My programme will be built around tailored opportunities in each market to support and promote the New Zealand exporters participating in the mission. In Singapore this will include a tourism-focused networking event at Gardens by the Bay (which will include the unveiling of a Kūwaha Hurahia) and an event focused on the future of maritime supply chains at the port of Singapore. We will also announce an arrangement on sustainable aviation between New Zealand and Singapore at a Changi Airport event.

10 In Japan, my programme will include launching the kiwifruit import season into Japan, supporting future renewable energy partnerships, highlighting New Zealand's reopening to tourists and students and making an address to a Japanese business audience. Throughout my programme I will emphasise that New Zealand is open for business.

11 In each capital I will undertake a programme of bilateral meetings. In Singapore I will meet with my counterpart Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and separately with President Halimah Yacob. The visit will also be an opportunity to

refresh the New Zealand-Singapore Enhanced Partnership, launched in 2019, and to discuss global and regional issues of common concern.

12 In Japan, I will have my first in-person meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and hold high-level discussions about global and regional challenges as well as bilateral issues. The visit will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations and discuss a shared commitment to the Indo-Pacific region's sustainable recovery from COVID-19.

### **Travel**

13 If travel is approved, I will depart New Zealand on a Royal New Zealand Air Force flight for Singapore on Monday 18 April 2022 and will travel to Japan on the afternoon of Wednesday 22 April. I will then return to New Zealand on the morning of 24 April.

### **Prime Ministerial Party**

14 If Cabinet approves my travel, I will be accompanied by Deputy Chief of Staff, my Press Secretary, officials from Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers.

15 I will also be accompanied by my partner Clarke Gayford for the Singapore leg of the mission, where he will undertake a separate programme aimed at underscoring New Zealand's reconnection ambitions.

16 I will also be accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth Hon Damien O'Connor and his adviser.

### **Estimated Costs**

17 The cost of the travel is estimated to be:

s9(2)(f)(iv)



18 The above costs will be a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel). The costs for the DPMC, MFAT, NZTE officials and the New Zealand Police Protection Service officers, will be a charge to their respective votes.

19 The host governments may assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs.

20 Mr Gayford will return to New Zealand on a commercial flight, at the conclusion of the official programme in Singapore.

### **Acting Ministers**

21 In my absence, I propose that Hon Grant Robertson act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services; Hon Andrew Little for National Security & Intelligence and Hon Kelvin Davis for Child Poverty Reduction.

22 My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Carmel Sepuloni.

23 In the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor, it is proposed that Hon Stuart Nash act as Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities; Hon Dr David Clark for Land Information, and Hon Phil Twyford for Trade and Export Growth.

### **Recommendations**

24 I recommend that Cabinet:

- Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 18 to 24 April to travel to Singapore and Japan;
- Agree that I will be accompanied by my partner Clarke Gayford for the Singapore leg of the mission, and that he will undertake a separate programme to underscore New Zealand's reconnection ambitions;
- Agree that I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief of Staff, my Press Secretary, officials from DPMC, MFAT, NZTE and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers;
- Authorise the absence from New Zealand of Hon Damien O'Connor who will accompany me as part of the Prime Ministerial party;

- Note that Hon O'Connor will be accompanied by one staff member;
- Approve the expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the prime ministerial party, including Mr Gayford, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel;
- Note that the costs of the DPMC, MFAT, NZTE officials and the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will be a charge to their respective votes;
- Note that the host governments may assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs;
- Agree that Hon Grant Robertson will act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services; Hon Andrew Little for National Security and Intelligence, and Hon Kelvin Davis for Child Poverty Reduction. My Associate Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage Minister responsibilities will revert to the primary Minister;
- Agree that in the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor that Hon Stuart Nash act as Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities; Hon Dr David Clark for Land Information, and Hon Phil Twyford for Trade and Export Growth;
- Note that leave from Parliament has been sought for Hon Damien O'Connor from the Party Whip.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio                      Prime Minister

On 11 April 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 18 to 24 April 2022, to travel to Singapore and Japan to undertake bilateral visits;
- 2        **agreed** that she be accompanied by:
  - 2.1      her partner, to Singapore only, to undertake a separate programme aimed at underscoring New Zealand's reconnection ambitions;
  - 2.2      her Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary;
  - 2.3      Hon Damien O'Connor and one member of staff from his office;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that she will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose costs will be met by their respective votes;
- 5        **noted** that the host governments may assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs;
- 6        **agreed** that in her absence:
  - 6.1      Hon Grant Robertson act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 6.2      Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
  - 6.3      Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;

7 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor:

7.1 Hon Stuart Nash act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, and Minister for Rural Communities;

7.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Land Information;

7.3 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;

8 **noted** that the House is sitting during the travel period;

9 **noted** that leave from Parliament for Hon Damien O'Connor has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released