



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy and Resources
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Date to be published</b>	23 November 2022

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
August 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources
22 August 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods CAB-22-MIN-0334 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Commercial information.

## **In Confidence**

Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources, Minister for Building and Construction, Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Finance

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States of America (USA) and Japan from 19 to 30 September 2022.
- 2 The primary purpose of my travel to the USA is to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) on 21 to 23 September 2022 which is being held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This CEM is being hosted by the US Secretary of Energy, Jennifer M. Granholm. The goal of this year's Ministerial is to give a renewed focus on tangible, near-term progress in decarbonising our energy systems while creating millions of well-paying jobs and ensuring energy security.
- 3 The primary purpose of my travel to Japan is to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Hydrogen Energy Ministerial (HEM) which is being held on 26 September 2022 in Tokyo. This Ministerial will bring together member countries, as well as key international bodies such as the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency, to encourage countries worldwide to promote global-level utilisation of hydrogen and to further consolidate collaboration among member countries on research, development and deployment of hydrogen technologies.
- 4 I also plan to undertake a range of meetings and engagements with key companies to highlight New Zealand's recent successes in climate action and in support of our innovation ecosystem.
- 5 This proposed travel will re-establish and strengthen relationships with strategic partners in the USA and Japan, in my Energy and Resources portfolio while seeking to utilise opportunities in my Housing and Building and Construction portfolios for New Zealand as major global economies like the USA seek to accelerate the decarbonisation of their economies.
- 6 My proposed engagements during this travel will support New Zealand's reconnection with likeminded countries by sharing knowledge and experiences, progress strategically significant relationships and confirm commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I will be highlighting recent announcements on a global stage, such as the expansion of the Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry (GIDI) fund, which will support the Government's ambition to build a high wage, low emissions economy.

- 7 Securing international connections to support areas such as renewable electricity generation, energy efficiency technologies, and green hydrogen production aligns with my priorities for the Energy and Resources portfolio and the upcoming Aotearoa New Zealand's International Climate Change Engagement Plan (2022), which is currently under development. During my proposed travel I plan to:
  - 7.1 Gather insights and best practice from other countries;
  - 7.2 Promote global ambition to decarbonise the energy sector;
  - 7.3 Support the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) through accessing technology and innovation supporting energy efficiency technology and hydrogen supplies.
- 8 My proposed travel will also support New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy to seize new opportunities for trade and investment as we reconnect with the world, particularly towards strengthening New Zealand's economic and trade resilience by accelerating decarbonisation and improving New Zealand's access to and participation in global supply chains for renewable energy.
- 9 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.


### **Purpose of Travel**

- 10 This trip presents an opportunity to combine a number of high priority engagements across multiple portfolios in the USA and Japan. I propose combining these into one trip as we will achieve cost efficiencies, secure important international connections, and highlight the Government's recent successes in climate action.
- 11 I believe the trip also presents an opportunity to take a small business delegation to support New Zealand's energy innovation goals.

### *United States of America*

- 12 The principal objective of my proposed travel to the USA is to attend the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which will be hosted by the US Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, and the US department of Energy.
- 13 New Zealand became a member of CEM in 2020 and is participating in the Hydrogen Initiative and Electric Vehicle Initiative. CEM is an invitation only grouping of like-minded countries who are working collectively to bring about a clean energy future. CEM prioritises in-person meetings in order to make progress on its goals.
- 14 My participation in this year's Ministerial would provide New Zealand with access to a high-level global forum to promote New Zealand as a global leader in renewable energy and decarbonisation and highlight our policies and programmes that advance clean energy technology, such as the recent

Climate Emergency Response Fund investment and the Emissions Reduction Plan.

- 15 While Attending the CEM I will also seek several bilateral meetings to engage with my counterparts. I will seek meetings with the US Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, to discuss the global energy implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the energy priorities of the Biden Administration and to signal New Zealand's strong commitment to international climate change goals. I will also seek a bilateral meeting with Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon Chris Bowen MP, to discuss the energy priorities of the new administration. These bilateral meetings will reinforce the benefits of existing relationships with other global partners as part of reconnecting Aotearoa New Zealand with the world.
- 16 Participating in CEM will provide the opportunity to share best practices, and to discuss opportunities for New Zealand and its businesses around the world to benefit from global decarbonisation. I am particularly interested in discussing outgoing supply chain constraints for renewable energy technologies with key partners and understanding the opportunities for easing such constraints. This aligns with recent announcements by US President Joe Biden on action to increase domestic manufacturing of essential parts for renewable energy generation technology, such as the authorisation for the Department of Energy to use the Defense Production Act (DPA) to accelerate domestic production of clean energy technologies, including solar panel parts.
- 17 While I am in Pittsburgh for CEM, I will also look to meet with local energy organisations such as Archaea Energy and UGI Utilities who have partnered to develop the largest biomethane injection plant in the USA. This meeting will provide an opportunity to build understanding of how renewable gases can address landfill disposal waste issues, and what measures (particularly from local authorities) enabled the development of this large injection project. This would help to inform how New Zealand can obtain better value from the use of gases produced by waste.
- 18 I also propose to travel to San Francisco to visit companies working that the frontier of energy innovation to continue to build on the Government's work to support global companies investing into New Zealand. Commercial Information  

- 19 California will provide an opportunity to gain lessons from key organisations involved in developing technologies to make buildings more energy efficient, including the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Facility for Low-Energy Experiments in Buildings (FLEXLAB). FLEXLAB is the first of its kind for

developing and validating the performance of new energy efficient building controls and technologies.

### *Japan*

- 20 The principal objective of my proposed travel to Japan is to attend the fifth Hydrogen Energy Ministerial in Tokyo. The Hydrogen Energy Ministerial meeting is an opportunity for member countries to encourage countries worldwide to promote global-level utilisation of hydrogen and to further consolidate collaboration among member countries. It is important for New Zealand to be at this table as the international context of hydrogen is moving very swiftly, particularly in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 21 Attending this Ministerial will provide me the opportunity to highlight the policies and concrete actions New Zealand has taken to promote the production or usage of hydrogen in New Zealand, such as the development of the Hydrogen Roadmap, which is being developed to enable new investment, support regional development and highly skilled jobs, while providing more renewable energy options to support our transition to a low emissions economy.
- 22 This Ministerial will also provide an opportunity to express thoughts on the importance of hydrogen as an 'essential energy source' for decarbonisation. By sharing initiatives and policies for the utilisation of hydrogen in countries around the world, we can further solidify our progress toward building a global hydrogen society.
- 23 My Japan visit provides an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), to showcase New Zealand policies for renewable energy and advanced technologies. In October 2018, New Zealand signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Japan to promote greater connections between the two countries on Hydrogen development. This meeting will be an opportunity to strengthen this relationship at a Ministerial level.
- 24 My proposed travel to Japan will also provide the opportunity to reconnect with the Obayashi Corporation of Japan, to ascertain their views on the success to date of their hydrogen project with Tuaropaki Trust, and to discuss their future intentions. I will also seek a similar meeting with Mitsui Corporation to discuss the progress of their hydrogen projects in New Zealand.
- 25 During my travel to Japan, I intent on meeting with Toyota to strengthen partnership and engagement with the Japanese car manufacturing sector and encourage increased supply of electric vehicles to New Zealand. I also intend to visit Eurus Energy, which is Japan's largest developer of wind farms and is a joint venture between Toyota Tsusho, and Tokyo Electric Power Company. This will be a good opportunity to gain insight of the renewable energy development supply chain in the Asia region.

## Ministerial Party

- 26 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my Office, whose costs will be met by Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 27 I expect that I will also be accompanied by one official from MBIE, from the Energy and Resources branch. Travel costs for the MBIE official will be met by MBIE (Vote: Energy (Business, Science and Innovation)).

## Travel Costs

- 28 I propose to leave New Zealand on Monday 19 September and return on Friday 30 September, allowing me four days on the ground in the USA and four days on the ground in Tokyo.
- 29 The estimated cost for my travel is \$94,600.38, including airfares, meals, accommodation, and miscellaneous costs, as follows:

Airfares (2 people):	\$51,092.38
Accommodation (2 people):	\$8,500.00
Other expenses:	\$20,600.00
Contingency (15%)	\$14,408.00
<b>Total: \$ 94,600.38</b>	

## Acting Ministers

- 30 The following Ministers will be acting for me:
- 30.1 The acting Minister of Housing will be Hon Peeni Henare;
- 30.2 The acting Minister of Energy and Resources will be Hon Stuart Nash;
- 30.3 The acting Minister for Building and Construction will be Hon Carmel Sepuloni;
- 30.4 The acting Associate Minister of Finance will be Hon Grant Robertson.
- 31 The House is sitting during my absence, and I am seeking leave from the Party Whip.

## Proactive release

- 32 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
  - 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured (if the House is sitting), from 19 September to 30 September to travel to the United States of America and Japan to attend the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial in Pittsburgh and the 5th Hydrogen Energy Ministerial in Tokyo;
  - 1.2 **agree** that I will be accompanied by a small business delegation from New Zealand whose costs will be met by their respective companies;
  - 1.3 **agree** that I will be accompanied by one member of staff from my office whose costs will be met by Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
  - 1.4 **note** that I will be accompanied by one official from MBIE and that their costs will be met by MBIE (Vote: Energy (Business, Science and Innovation));
  - 1.5 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$94,600.38 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
  - 1.6 **agree** that in my absence:
    - 1.6.1 Hon Peeni Henare acts as Minister of Housing,
    - 1.6.2 Hon Stuart Nash acts as Minister of Energy and Resources,
    - 1.6.3 Hon Carmel Sepuloni acts as Minister for Building and Construction,
    - 1.6.4 Hon Grant Robertson acts as Associate Minister of Finance
  - 1.7 **note** that the House is sitting during my absence from 19 to 30 September, and I am seeking leave from the Party Whip;
  - 1.8 **note** that I will be absent from Cabinet on 26 September.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister for Building and Construction  
Minister of Housing  
Associate Minister of Finance