



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Judith Collins KC | Portfolio | Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, Space |
| Title of Cabinet paper | Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024 | Date to be published | 13 June 2024 |

List of documents that have been proactively released

| Date | Title | Author |
|-------------|--|---|
| April 2024 | Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024 | Office of the Minister for Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, Space |
| 6 May 2024 | Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024 CAB-24-MIN-0155 Minute | Cabinet Office |

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Space

Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC - April 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the U.S. cities of Colorado Springs, Denver and Los Angeles in April.

Report

- 1 I travelled to the United States from 8 to 14 April in my capacity as Minister for Space, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, and as Minister of Defence, to undertake an Advanced Technologies and Aerospace Mission.
- 2 This visit served to underscore New Zealand's rapidly growing reputation as an important player in the global space sector and highlighted opportunities for U.S. investment into New Zealand's advanced technology firms.

Space Symposium, Colorado Springs

- 3 A key objective for my travel was to lend my support to New Zealand's space sector and promote the advantages of carrying out space activities in and from New Zealand.
- 4 My attendance at the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, one of the largest and most important international space events, was the first time New Zealand had been represented at ministerial level. I was a featured speaker at the Symposium and had the opportunity to engage with senior representatives from overseas space agencies, space companies, and the U.S. defence and security system.
- 5 While at the Symposium I participated in the inaugural U.S.- New Zealand Commercial Roundtable, with 16 commercial space companies from both countries, and alongside the Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary of the U.S. National Space Council. The challenges and opportunities for greater partnership and trade discussed at this Roundtable fed into the inaugural U.S. - New Zealand bilateral space dialogue held at officials' level in Washington D.C. shortly after the Symposium.
- 6 The work to build relationships and strengthen partnerships in the U.S. is clearly being well supported through MBIE's in-country Science and Innovation Counsellor.

- 7 I also met with a number of senior U.S. military representatives, including Commander of U.S. Space Command, General Stephen Whiting, and U.S. Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall.
- 8 These engagements were opportunities to reinforce key messages with senior U.S. defence personnel on New Zealand's commitment to the relationship and particularly the opportunities that exist in the space and defence sectors. More specifically, with the recent release of the U.S. Defence 2024 Commercial Space Integration Strategy, and the U.S. Space Force's Commercial Space Strategy, my meetings also sought to position potential opportunities for New Zealand space industry providers.

Denver, Colorado

- 9 Ahead of the Symposium I undertook political and business engagements in Denver, which has become an attractive beachhead destination for New Zealand tech firms launching into the U.S. market. Of the 80 NZTE tech customers with a presence in the U.S., 30 of these are based in Colorado.
- 10 I attended a New Zealand business forum hosted by New Zealand software company Xero. I spoke alongside the Governor of Colorado Jared Polis, to profile the connectivity and positive growing relationship between Colorado and New Zealand to the business and media audience.
- 11 At a separate meeting with Governor Polis, we agreed to take active steps to strengthen our partnership through a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to further cooperation in technology, science, geothermal and aerospace. MBIE officials are now taking this work forward.

Los Angeles, California

- 12 The final leg of my travel in Los Angeles provided an opportunity to broaden our linkages with California and grow investment interest in New Zealand.
- 13 I attended a NZTE/MFAT facilitated dinner at the New Zealand Official Residence with high-net-worth investors and Edmund Hillary Fellows. As we work to rebuild the economy, such engagements are necessary channels through which to register that New Zealand is open for business, seeking international investment, and is a trusted economic partner.
- 14 Other business meetings highlighted the breadth of opportunities for enhanced collaboration and investment in New Zealand, and the development of advanced technologies. Pilot testing in New Zealand, such as for autonomous vehicles, is of particular interest to the U.S. market. This presents a niche area for growth, and one which will require ongoing adjustments to our regulatory settings to keep pace with technological innovation.
- 15 I am continuing to engage with these offshore investors to help drive interest into practical support for New Zealand entrepreneurs and innovators.

- 16 At my visit to the Rocket Lab facility I met with Dee Dee Myers, Director of the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, where it became apparent that the existing Memorandum of Understanding between New Zealand and California could be improved by work regarding New Zealand's expertise in geothermal energy. Director Myers referred to California's clean energy issues and there is clearly an opportunity for New Zealand in geothermal energy production and expertise.

Travel programme

- 17 A full list of my engagements is attached as Annex A.

Proactive release

- 18 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18)4 on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister for Space

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Minister of Defence

Annex A: List of engagements

- Meeting with Governor of Colorado, Jared Polis
- Denver business panel with New Zealand companies hosted by Xero
- Meeting with Marc Holtzman, businessman and former President of the University of Denver
- Meeting with Senior Vice President of Global Business and Government Affairs at SpaceX, Tim Hughes
- Welcome reception hosted by the Space Foundation for the New Zealand delegation and attended by U.S. government officials and businesses
- Visit to Rocket Lab booth at Space Symposium and introduction to Virginia Spaceport Authority CEO, Ted Mercer
- Corporate Partnership Dinner hosted by the Space Foundation
- Meeting with NASA Deputy Administrator, Pamela Melroy and other senior NASA officials
- Featured Speaker, Space Symposium
- Meeting with Commander, U.S. Space Command, General Stephen Whiting
- Meeting with Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, Frank Kendall III
- U.S. - New Zealand Commercial Space Roundtable
- Meeting with Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), Dr Josef Aschbacher and other senior ESA officials
- Meeting with Chief of Space Operations U.S. Space Force, General Chance Saltzman
- Meeting with Assistant Secretary for Defense Space Policy, Dr John Plumb
- New Zealand Reception, Space Symposium
- Dinner with Edmund Hillary Fellows and Investors at the New Zealand Official Residence
- Meeting with Timothy Kasbe, Daniel Goldin, Cerberus Capital Management
- Meeting with Matt Soule, Parallel Systems
- Visit to Rocket Lab facilities in Long Beach with Peter Beck, CEO of Rocket Lab and Dee Dee Myers, Director of the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development