

## PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Kris Faafoi	<b>Portfolio</b>	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
<b>Title of Cabinet Paper</b>	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kris Faafoi	<b>Date to be published</b>	16 August 2019

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
29 March 2019	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kris Faafoi	Office of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
1 April 2019	CAB-19-MIN-0131	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES / NO** (please select)

Any information redacted in this document 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.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kris Faafoi**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Canberra and Melbourne, Australia from 24 October 2018 to 26 October 2018. This was a joint ministerial trip with Hon Stuart Nash covering meetings for my Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Customs portfolios.

#### **Report**

- 1 My visit was an opportunity to continue to build on the good relationships that had been established by my initial visit to Australia for the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum in Sydney in March 2018. It also allowed me to meet with new my ministerial counterparts following Australia's August leadership change. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce and advance key priorities on the trans Tasman Single Economic market agenda.
- 2 On 25 October in Canbe ra, Hon Nash and I met with our shared Australian ministerial counterpart, Assistant Treasurer Hon Stuart Robert. We discussed shared issues common to our portfolios, including tax policy, financial sector governance, competition and consumer policy (including oversight of the open banking and consumer data right agenda), and various other digital economy issues such as trans-Tasman mutual recognition of business registration.
- 3 Hon Nash and I attended a roundtable lunch with Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell, and Small Business Council representatives. We heard about the Australian government's policy approach to Small Business and Competition issues, from a business perspective. We also talked about how the role of the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, and how it provides advice to and plays a bridging role between industry and government.
- 4 We also met with shadow ministerial counterparts from the Australian Federal Labor party (the **Labor party**), including Hon Chris Bowen, Shadow Treasurer and Small Business Minister; Hon Clare O'Neil, Shadow Financial Services Minister; and Hon Jim Chalmers, Shadow Finance Minister. We had a series of discussions on federal political dynamics and Labor policy problems.
- 5 Hon O'Neil and I exchanged experiences on New Zealand and Australia's in regulating providers of financial advice, and lenders. Clare expressed interest in recent New Zealand reforms limiting the amount of interest that can be

charged on loans. We also talked about Australian efforts to regulate 'After Pay' services, which is an emerging issue in New Zealand and potential regulatory responses to it.

- 6 There was discussion about the interim report released on the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry and Labor's response to it ahead of the final report being released.
- 7 On 26 October, I attended the Australian Federal/State Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs in Melbourne. Here I had further conversation with Assistant Treasurer Robert, and had discussions with state ministers and their representatives. This meeting covered a number of Australian priorities of close interest to New Zealand, including regulation of ticket resales and predatory lending practices. I also raised New Zealand's review of New Zealand's 2013-15 consumer law reforms.
- 8 New Zealand will host the next Consumer Affairs Forum in 2019. It is the first time New Zealand has hosted an Australian ministerial council meeting since 2016, and the first time we have hosted the Consumer Affairs Forum since May 2008.
- 9 As part of my Customs portfolio, I visited Australia Post's Melbourne Gateway Facility to understand how the company and Australian border agencies are responding to the challenge of increasing volumes of international e-commerce postal items, and what insights could be applied in the New Zealand context.

#### **Proactive release**

- 10 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs