

# PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy and Resources, Government Digital Services, Research, Science and Innovation, Earthquake Commission
<b>Title of Cabinet Paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel – Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, 6 – 14 April 2019	<b>Date to be published</b>	6 September 2019

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
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21 March 2019	Proposed Overseas Travel – Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, 6 – 14 April 2019	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources
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<b>Information redacted</b>	<b>YES / NO</b> <i>(please select)</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>Some information has been withheld for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidential advice to Government</li> <li>• Commercial information</li> </ul>	

## **In confidence**

Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources, Minister of Research, Science and Innovation, Minister for Government Digital Services, and Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel – Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, 6 - 14 April 2019**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval in principle to travel to Germany, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom from 6 – 14 April 2019.
- 2 The purpose of the travel is to participate in the 5th Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue from 9 – 10 April 2019, to which I was invited by the German Foreign, and Economic Affairs and Energy Ministers. An additional priority is to meet with a range of EQC reinsurers to support time-sensitive reinsurance negotiations. I will also undertake a range of meetings and engagements related to Research, Science and Innovation (RSI), Energy and Resources, Just Transitions and Government Digital Services (GDS).
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

#### **Travel objectives and proposed programme**

- 4 This trip represents an opportunity to combine a number of high priority engagements across multiple portfolios. By combining these into one trip we achieve cost efficiencies and secure important international connections, particularly in the lead up to the Just Transitions Summit.
- 5 In addition, EQC is currently securing new reinsurance contracts with key European institutions. These contracts will be the first EQC has negotiated since the depletion of the Natural Disaster Fund and the call on the Crown Guarantee. My meeting with key parties, including the Chair of Commercial Information and executives from other reinsurers, will reinforce the Government's commitment to the Earthquake Commission and enable me to gain insights into the direction of the global reinsurance markets and the protection mechanisms they are developing for the increasing threat of Natural Hazard disasters.

#### *Germany*

- 6 I propose to spend three days in Germany – in Munich and Berlin.
- 7 The principal objective of my proposed trip to Germany is to attend the Energy Transition Dialogue on 9 – 10 April. At this event I will meet with my German energy counterpart the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, and attend a lunch he is hosting, where I expect we will discuss low-carbon energy technologies and management, and Just Transitions. I will also participate in a

panel discussion on the Digital Drivers for the Global Energy Transition, alongside key energy leaders from industry and other governments. I am seeking bilateral meetings with other international government ministers in the margins of this event.

- 8 While in Berlin, I will also meet with my counterpart, the German Minister of Education and Research and the President of the German Research Foundation, to build support for strengthening and deepening RSI collaboration. There are many cooperative research links between New Zealand and Germany and significant new initiatives, including in the fields of aeronautics and space, and climate change. My visit will initiate in-depth discussions to progress these initiatives. Within the Government Digital Services portfolio, I will meet with the Minister of State for Digitalisation.
- 9 In Munich, I will undertake meetings with executives from Commercial Information (a reinsurer), the President of the Fraunhofer Society (Europe's leading applied research organisation), engage with leaders in Germany's Industry 4.0 initiative and BMW to discuss electric and hydrogen-fuelled vehicles.

#### *Netherlands*

- 10 In the Netherlands, I will visit The Hague and Rotterdam. The Netherlands is a country of increasing interest as an RSI partner. Visiting The Hague at this time will initiate work to build the bilateral RSI relationship with the Netherlands. In particular, I will meet with the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Change, and the Minister for Education, Culture and Science. Both Ministers are leading significant strategies and programmes to apply RSI to address issues arising from the need to transition to a low carbon economy, particularly energy related.
- 11 I will also meet with leaders in The Hague Metropolitan Area Roadmap Next Economy (RNE) initiative in Rotterdam. Through the RNE, 23 local municipalities, with a population of 3.6 million, are working in a coordinated manner to strengthen the sustainable economic business climate, which is analogous to Just Transitions.

#### *United Kingdom*

- 12 The principal objective visiting London is to meet with Chairs, executives and Commercial Information, Aon Reinsurance Solutions and Commercial Information all of which have significant reinsurance business relationships with EQC. Meetings with reinsurers at this time is important to underpin reinsurance negotiations that EQC will be undertaking between April and May 2019.
- 13 I will also meet with ministerial counterparts Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Minister of State for Digital and the Creative Industries, and the Alan Turing Institute (pending their availability following Brexit) and the Chair of the Scottish Just Transitions Commission.

#### **Ministerial party**

- 14 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. I expect that a senior official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

(MBIE) and the Chief Executive of the EQC will also travel with us. Travel costs for officials will be met by MBIE and EQC respectively.

## Travel

15 I propose to leave New Zealand on Saturday 6 April and return on Sunday 14 April, giving me five working days on the ground in Europe. This will take place during a sitting week, owing to the fixed dates of the energy dialogue in Germany.

16 The estimated cost for my travel is <sup>Confidential advice to Go</sup> [redacted], including airfares and meals, accommodation, transport, facilitation and hospitality. These costs are set out below.

17 Indicative costs are:

Airfares (2 people)

Accommodation (2 people)

Other expenses, including ground transport

Contingency (5%)

**Total**

Confidential advice to Government

## Acting Ministers

18 The acting Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission and for Greater Christchurch Regeneration will be Hon Kris Faafoi.

19 The acting Minister for Research, Science and Innovation, Minister for Energy and Resources and Minister for Government Digital Services will be Hon David Parker.

20 Leave is being sought from the Party Whip.

## Proactive release

21 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

22 I recommend that you:

22.1. **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from Saturday 6 April to Sunday 14 April to visit Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom;

22.2. **agree** that I will be accompanied by a staff member from my office whose costs will be met by Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;

22.3. **approve** expenditure of approximately <sup>Confidential advice to Go</sup> [redacted] for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and

- 22.4. **note** that I will be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Chief Executive of EQC, and that their costs will be met by Vote: Business, Science and Innovation and directly by EQC;
- 22.5. **agree** that in my absence;
- 22.5.1. Hon David Parker acts as Minister of Research, Science and Innovation, Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister for Government Digital Services,
- 22.5.2. Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration and Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission;
- 22.6. **note** that the House is sitting during my absence and I am seeking leave from the Party Whip.
- 22.7. **note** that I will be absent from Cabinet on Monday 8 April 2019.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation  
Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission  
Minister for Government Digital Services