

PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Megan Woods	Portfolio	Energy and Resources, Government Digital Services, Research, Science and Innovation, Earthquake Commission
Title of Cabinet Paper	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	Date to be published	6 September 2019

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
25 July 2019	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources
29 July 2019	CAB-19-MIN-0365	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 Energy and Resources
Office of the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Canada and the USA from 26 to 31 May 2019 to attend the 10th Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting (CEM) and to hold meetings related to the Energy and Resources, Government Digital Services, Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Earthquake Commission, and Research, Science and Innovation portfolios.

Report

1. I had the opportunity to speak at the CEM about New Zealand's transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and to a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. There was interest in New Zealand's recent Just Transitions Summit. Plenary sessions focused on clean power/electric future, smarter energy use, and a just and inclusive transition.
2. I attended the launch of the "New Hydrogen Initiative", a multi-government initiative which aims to advance policies, programmes and projects that accelerate the commercialisation and deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies across all aspects of the economy. Hydrogen was a major theme of the CEM.
3. In the margins of the CEM, I had useful bilaterals with my Canadian federal level counterpart, Hon Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources; Hassan Yussuff, the co-chair of Canada's Just Transition Taskforce; the Hon Michelle Mungall, the B.C. provincial Minister of Energy, Minerals and Petroleum; the Hon George Heyman, B.C.'s Provincial Minister for Environment and Climate Change; and Hon Bruce Ralston, B.C.'s Provincial Minister for Jobs, Trade and Technology.
4. I also had informative conversations on energy with Clean Energy B.C.'s acting Executive Director, Martin Mullany; Merran Smith, the Executive Director of Clean Energy Canada; and Innovate B.C.'s President and CEO, Raghwa Gopal.

5. I exchanged information around earthquake preparedness with Kennedy Stewart, Mayor of the City of Vancouver; and with B.C.'s Minister of Public Safety, responsible for Emergency Management, Hon Mike Farnworth.
6. Following my attendance at the CEM, I visited the San Francisco Bay area from 29-31 May 2019 to meet with innovators in clean-tech. Meetings were held with Scott Jacobs of Generate Capital; Joseph Pratt of Golden Gate Zero Emission Marine; Gia Schneider of Natel Energy; and Emily Kirsch and Emily Fritze of Powerhouse.
7. San Francisco also allowed me the opportunity to discuss trends in distributed/community energy with officials of the California Public Utilities Commission.
8. I also held meetings related to my Research, Science and Innovation and Government Digital Services portfolios with Murat Sonmez of the World Economic Forum Center; Maish Kothari of SRI International; and Dan Ceperly and Michael Nicolls of Leolabs.
9. The visit to Canada and the USA was a good opportunity to discuss potential opportunities to support NZ's clean energy future. New Zealand's participation at the 10th CEM was much appreciated, with others referring to the NZ delegation as the "fresh new faces in the room". I also note the clear sense of enthusiasm among clean tech entrepreneurs for NZ's carbon neutral goals and climate related priorities.

Proactive release

10. This report will be proactively released in due course.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation