

## PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy and Resources Research, Science and Innovation
<b>Title of Cabinet Paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Date to be published</b>	30 January 2020

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
22 November 2019	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources, Research, Science and Innovation
25 November 2019	CAB-19-MIN-0618	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.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.

## **In confidence**

Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources

Chair  
Cabinet

### **Proposed overseas travel: Hon Dr Megan Woods**

1. I seek your approval in principle to travel to Paris, France, between 2 December and 8 December 2019.
2. The purpose of the travel is to attend the International Energy Agency (IEA) Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency group meeting on 4 December and the IEA Ministerial from 5-6 December 2019.
3. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle.

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

4. The purpose of my proposed trip to Paris is to attend the IEA Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency group meeting on 4 December and the IEA Ministerial from 5-6 December 2019
5. New Zealand is a member of the Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency, which was established by the IEA to examine how progress on energy efficiency can be rapidly accelerated through new and stronger policy action. The focus of this Commission will be on key policy actions that can be taken by countries across the globe.
6. The bi-annual IEA Ministerial meeting brings together Ministers and top government officials from IEA's 29 member countries, seven Association countries – Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore and Thailand – and other partners, as well as executives from across the energy spectrum.
7. Attendance at IEA Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency and the Ministerial meeting will provide me with a unique opportunity to better understand energy issues and solutions from a global perspective. I view energy efficiency as a vital component of our energy transition, and I am honoured to be one of a select group of energy ministers joining this global initiative chaired by Leo Varadkar, the Irish Prime Minister. I will also be able to connect with other international energy Ministers and

with senior industry players who are working to transition their respective countries to a greater reliance on low emissions energy.

8. I am a member of the IEA Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency and hence I am expected to attend its first meeting on 4 December.
9. I have been offered a speaking slot at the IEA Ministerial meeting from 5 – 6 December in one of the sessions on Women in Energy. I will also participate in the session on hydrogen, given the interest we have in hydrogen development in New Zealand.
10. The last time a New Zealand Minister attended the IEA Ministerial was Hon David Parker in 2008, as the Energy Minister in the last Labour Government. Given the key role that the IEA is playing in the global transition to a low emissions energy economy, I believe New Zealand's attendance at these events sends an important signal about how serious we are in addressing our global commitments.

#### Ministerial party

11. I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. I expect that one senior official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and one senior official from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) will also travel. Travel costs for officials will be met by MBIE and EECA.
12. In addition, I will be accompanied by senior representatives from the embassy in Paris; either the Ambassador, or her deputy.

#### Travel

13. I propose to leave New Zealand on Monday 2 December and return on Sunday 8 December, giving me three working days on the ground in Paris.
14. This travel will take place during a sitting week, owing to the fixed dates of the IEA's Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency meeting and the IEA Ministerial.
15. The estimated cost of travel is   including airfares and meals, accommodation, transport, facilitation and hospitality. These costs are set out below.
16. Indicative costs are:

Paris Airfares (2 people)  
Accommodation (6 nights for 2 people)

Confidential  
advice to  
Government

Other expenses  
Contingency  
**Total**

Confidential  
advice to  
Government

### Acting Ministers

17. The acting Minister of Housing will be Hon Kris Faafoi.
18. The acting Minister for Research, Science and Innovation and Minister for Energy and Resources will be Hon David Parker.
19. The acting Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration will be Hon Poto Williams.
20. The House is sitting during this period, and leave will be requested.

### Proactive release

21. I propose to release this paper proactively, within 30 business days.

### Recommendations

22. I recommend that you:
  - 22.1. **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from Monday 2 December and return on Sunday 8 December **inclusive** to visit Paris, France;
  - 22.2. **note** that I will be accompanied a staff member from my office whose costs will be met by Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
  - 22.3. **note** that I expect to be accompanied by two senior officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, and that their costs will be met by Vote: Business, Science and Innovation;
  - 22.4. **agree** that in my absence:
    - 22.4.1. Hon David Parker acts as Minister for Research, Science and Innovation and Minister for Energy and Resources;
    - 22.4.2. Hon Poto Williams acts as Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration;
    - 22.4.3. Hon Kris Faafoi acts as Minister for Housing;
  - 22.5. **approve** the estimated expenditure of   for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

22.6. **note** that the House is sitting during my absence, and leave will be requested;

22.7. **note** that I will be absent from Cabinet on Monday 2 December 2019.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

PROACTIVELY RELEASED