



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Shane Jones	<b>Portfolio</b>	Regional Development Resources
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones - October 2025	<b>Date to be published</b>	17 April 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
March 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones - October 2025	Office of the Minister for Resources and Regional Development
9 March 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones - October 2025 Cab-26-Min-0062 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES / NO** (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and 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.

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Office of the Minister for Resources  
Minister for Regional Development  
Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones – October 2025**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Reno, Nevada, United States of America, from 22 October to 30 October 2025, to attend the Indigenous Geothermal Symposium, the Geothermal Rising Conference, and to undertake bilateral engagements.

**Report**

1. The Indigenous Geothermal Symposium and the Geothermal Rising Conference are leading international geothermal energy forums, attracting leaders, policymakers, researchers, and geothermal developers from North America and internationally.
2. I attended these events to promote New Zealand as a global leader in geothermal energy; to advance New Zealand's supercritical geothermal programme; to engage with indigenous leaders, international developers and policymakers; and to encourage investment and collaboration in New Zealand's geothermal sector.
3. Of note, I delivered a keynote address at both the Indigenous Geothermal Symposium and the Geothermal Rising Conference, where I spoke to New Zealand's Geothermal Strategy, the Government's commitment to enabling geothermal development and in particular the current Supercritical Geothermal project in development, and New Zealand's approach to partnership with Māori and mana whenua.
4. Engagement highlights over the course of the visit included meetings with indigenous organisations, government agencies, research institutions, international geothermal developers and service providers.
5. I undertook a total of twenty engagements with organisations during the visit, including:
  - 5.1 Engagements with indigenous leaders and organisations, including representatives of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and other tribal entities;
  - 5.2 Engagements with government agencies, including the California Energy Commission, responsible for energy policy, planning and permitting;
  - 5.3 Engagements with geothermal developers and operators, including Ormat Technologies;

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- 5.4 Engagements with geothermal engineering and service companies, including SLB (formerly Schlumberger) and Halliburton;
  - 5.5 Engagements with international research institutions and experts focused on supercritical and enhanced geothermal systems, including representatives from Japan and the United States;
  - 5.6 Engagements with emerging geothermal technology companies developing next-generation geothermal systems.
6. A technical site visit was undertaken to Ormat Technologies' Steamboat Hills geothermal power plant, providing insight into large-scale geothermal operations, enhanced geothermal systems, and emerging geothermal-storage solutions.
  7. Key themes that emerged through the course of engagements and conference sessions included:
    - 7.1 Growing international demand for geothermal energy as firm, baseload renewable generation;
    - 7.2 Increasing focus on next-generation geothermal technologies, including supercritical and enhanced geothermal systems;
    - 7.3 The importance of regulatory certainty and efficient permitting processes to attract geothermal investment;
    - 7.4 Strong international interest in New Zealand's approach to indigenous partnership in geothermal development;
    - 7.5 Competition between jurisdictions to attract geothermal investment and technology development.
  8. Officials continue to build on the introductions and discussions held during the visit. This includes progressing opportunities for research collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and engagement with potential international partners and investors in New Zealand's geothermal sector.

### **Proactive Release**

9. This paper will be released proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

### **Authorised for lodgement**

Hon Shane Jones  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Regional Development

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