



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Simon Watts	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – March 2026	Date to be published	22 May 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
March 2026	Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – March 2026	Office of the Minister for Energy
23 March 2026	Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – March 2026 CAB-25-MIN-0083 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Retrospective Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – March 2026

Portfolio **Energy**

On 23 March 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** retrospectively the absence of Hon Simon Watts from New Zealand, from 13 to 16 March 2026, to travel to Tokyo, Japan to participate in the Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum and to undertake bilateral engagements;
- 2 **noted** that he was accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$30,470 for the travel expenses the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that in his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon Simeon Brown acted as Minister for Energy and Minister of Local Government;
 - 4.2 Hon Scott Simpson acted as Minister of Climate Change and Minister of Revenue;
- 5 **noted** that the House was not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet