

[Inconfidence]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report which provides a summary of my attendance at the Platinum Primary Producers (PPP) Conference in Port Douglas, Australia, on Tuesday, 21 May, 2019.
2. The PPP is a gathering of some of Australia and New Zealand's top rural leaders who come together for an annual conference to network, discuss industry issues and trends, and listen to a variety of inspiring and high-calibre speakers.
3. The theme for the 2019 conference was "The Heat is On – Performing Under Pressure". It covered a range of topics facing the primary industries including increasing calls for sustainability, adapting to climate change and getting the most value for New Zealand-made products.
4. I spoke to the attendees on the second day of the conference about the "Pressures of the Political Landscape", which was followed by a question and answer session from the group. The attendees were interested in the Government's position regarding the pace of change that will take place in key areas including water and climate policy.
5. The conference was an excellent opportunity to provide an update from Government and highlight some of the actions being taken to ensure a viable and sustainable food and agriculture sector.
6. These included providing strategic direction through the Primary Sector Council's work on a unifying vision, increasing support for primary sector extension and farm planning, and investment support for industry initiatives on sustainability and value creation opportunities through the Sustainable Food and Fibres (SFF) Futures fund.

7. After my session I attended sessions regarding the importance of animal welfare, the need to tell a strong and accurate story about our high-quality products and the importance of sustainability in our farming practices.
8. The opportunity to talk one-on-one between sessions with key industry stakeholders about the Government's work was also valuable.

Proactive release

9. This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the [Official Information Act 1982](#).

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister of Agriculture