

# Proactive Release

Date: 13 December 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

***Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Winston Peters***

***(CAB-19-MIN-0587 refers)***

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



# 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.*

---

### Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 11 November 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 13 to 17 November 2019, to travel to Washington D.C., United States of America to attend the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Small Group Ministerial and to hold bilateral meetings;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$63,302 for travel expenses for the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 4.1      Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
  - 4.2      Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
  - 4.3      Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

---

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNITED STATES: 13-17 NOVEMBER 2019**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from 13-17 November 2019.

**Visit Objectives and Programme**

2 I propose to travel to the Washington DC to accept an invitation from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to attend the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Small Group Ministerial on Thursday November 14, which will be attended by around 15 other Foreign Ministers, primarily from Europe and the Middle East. I will also take the opportunity of being in Washington to undertake a day of bilateral engagements on Friday November 15. New Zealand's relationship with the United States is of fundamental importance, in security, economic and people-to-people terms, and regular political-level engagement in Washington is an integral part of driving the relationship forward.

3 The objectives of my proposed travel are:

- Demonstrate New Zealand's commitment, and contribution, to the international community's efforts to defeat ISIS;
- Underscore New Zealand's value proposition in the United States, by engaging with high-level members of the US Administration, as well as Members of Congress and the business community, as we seek to convince it to launch Free Trade Agreement negotiations with us;
- Promote and advance the enhanced Pacific partnership with the United States that we have been pursuing under the Pacific Reset;
- Advance New Zealand's bilateral interests with the United States, including in the areas of visas, trade and people-to-people links;
- Promote and defend a range of New Zealand positions of foreign policy importance (especially with respect to the Asia-Pacific; and

- Hold bilateral meetings with priority partners from Europe and the Middle East.

## **Travel**

4 I propose to depart New Zealand on the evening of Wednesday 13 November, returning to New Zealand on the morning of Sunday 17 November. Factoring in travel time, this allows two business days on the ground in Washington: one for a bilateral programme, and one to attend the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Ministerial meeting. I will not miss any Cabinet meetings.

## **Ministerial Party**

5 I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff and my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser with the travel costs of the official delegation a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

## **Acting Ministers**

6 If you approve my travel, I propose that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios; Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio; and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio from 13-17 November 2019.

## **Costs of Travel**

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel are:

Airfares:	\$51,802
Accommodation:	\$6,000
Meals:	\$2,000
Ground transportation:	\$0
Hospitality/gifts:	\$2,000
Contingency:	\$1,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$63,302</b>

## **Proactive Release**

8 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

## **Recommendation**

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** in principle my proposed travel to the United States from 13-15 November 2019;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff and my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser;
- c) **approve** expenditure up to \$63,302 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios; Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio; and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio from 13-17 November 2019.

## **Approved for lodgement**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister of Foreign Affairs