

# Proactive Release

Date: 10 October 2022

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<i>Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-22-MIN-0350
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 29 August 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from Aotearoa New Zealand from 5 to 8 September 2022, to travel to Papua New Guinea for a bilateral visit;
- 2        **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$43,800 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that she will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 5        **agreed** that in her absence:
  - 5.1      Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 5.2      Hon Kieran McAnulty act as Minister of Local Government;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

**[IN CONFIDENCE]**

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Papua New Guinea over 5-8 September 2022, inclusive.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

**Executive Summary**

- 3 If approved, this will be my first visit to Papua New Guinea as Foreign Minister. Our long-standing bilateral relationship with Papua New Guinea which is built on traditional defence ties, our legacy in Bougainville, energy sector investments, growing people-to-people links, and shared membership of regional fora including APEC.
- 4 Papua New Guinea represents the Pacific's largest country by population, economy and landmass. It also has some of the most acute human development needs. As we have seen recently, Melanesian countries are also on the frontline of increased geostrategic competition. Given this, I consider engagement with Papua New Guinea important to Aotearoa New Zealand's interests in supporting a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Pacific.
- 5 The timing of this trip will allow me to engage with a newly elected Government. A recent election saw James Marape re-elected as Prime Minister for a five-year term and Justin Tkatchenko appointed Foreign Minister. Notably, two women (Rufina Peter, Kessy Sawang) were successful in securing seats after no women were elected in 2017.
- 6 My specific objectives for the visit are to:
  - 6.1.1 Build personal relationships with key leaders following the national election, reinforcing New Zealand's role as a valued and trusted partner.
  - 6.1.2 Reiterate our commitment to Papua New Guinea's economic recovery from COVID-19 and our support for realisation of its development goals. I will highlight the importance of our development mahi by visiting major projects in the Mt Hagen province. I am considering announcing our new multi-country NZ\$30 million Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights programme.



- 6.1.3 Share views on key geostrategic issues and discuss its regional and international priorities.
- 6.1.4 Reinforce New Zealand's equities in Bougainville, underlining our interest in a well-managed, post-referendum process that supports stability and peace in Bougainville.

**Outline of Proposed Visit**

- 7 The programme will include a cross-section of bilateral meetings, community events and visits to development activities supported by New Zealand.
- 8 I intend to meet with the Prime Minister and my new Foreign Minister counterpart. I will also meet with Autonomous Bougainville Government President Ishmael Toroama. I am looking forward to holding a lunch roundtable with prominent women leaders, including the newly elected women MPs.
- 9 I will travel to the province of Mount Hagen in the Western Highlands to visit development projects and meet with community leaders. As part of that I will: learn more about our support to Mission Aviation Fellowship, which supports communities including through the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations; meet with UN and International Red Cross and Crescent representatives to discuss tribal violence and support for peacebuilding in the Highlands; and, pay a site visit to an agricultural project that was previously supported by New Zealand and is now operating as a successful commercial enterprise.
- 10 I will travel by commercial flights, arriving in Port Moresby on Monday 5 September and departing Port Moresby for New Zealand on Thursday 8 September.

**Ministerial Party**

- 11 I propose to be accompanied by one staff member. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me, with costs met by their department.

**Estimated Costs**

- 12 The estimated cost for this travel is:

<b>Flights (international and internal in Papua New Guinea)</b>	\$29,000
<b>Accommodation</b>	\$2,700
<b>COVID-19 testing</b>	N/A
<b>Transport and security</b>	\$2,000
<b>Gifts</b>	\$1,800
<b>Function</b>	\$1,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$36,500
<b>Contingency 20%</b>	\$7,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,800</b>

**Acting Ministers**

- 13 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister for Foreign Affairs and that Hon Kieran McAnulty cover my Local Government portfolio.
- 14 My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Māori Development will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Willie Jackson.

**Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 5 to 8 September 2022, inclusive, to Papua New Guinea.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by a member of my staff.
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$43,800 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 5 Agree that Hon David Parker and Hon Kieran McAnulty will be Acting Ministers in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere