

Proactive Release

Date: 1 April 2019

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

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu (CAB-19-SUB-0040 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters (CAB-19-MIN-0029 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

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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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 18 February 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 26 February to 3 March 2019, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Fiji to undertake a bilateral visit;
 - 1.2 Kiribati and Tuvalu to lead a cross-party delegation as part of the Pacific Reset;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by:
 - 2.1 two members of staff from his office, one of whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
 - 2.2 Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Hon Aupito William Sio (from 27 February) and one staff member each from their respective offices;
 - 2.3 Poto Williams MP, Darroch Ball MP, Marama Davidson MP and Alfred Ngaro MP, who will meet their own travel costs;
- 3 **noted** that Cabinet previously approved travel to Fiji for Hon Carmel Sepuloni from 27 February to 2 March 2019 [CAB-18-MIN-0648], but that these dates have now been extended;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$29,243 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party (including additional costs for Hon Carmel Sepuloni and the cost for Hon Aupito William Sio), as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
 - 5.2 Hon David Clark act as Minister of State Owned Enterprises;
 - 5.3 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Racing;

- 6 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues;
- 7 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Aupito William Sio, Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Pacific Peoples (from 27 February to 3 March 2019);
- 8 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Aupito William Sio

Proactively released by the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair,
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: FIJI, KIRIBATI AND TUVALU

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu from 26 February to 3 March 2019. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

2 I also seek Cabinet approval for:

- Minister Sepuloni to travel to Fiji on 26 February to undertake bilateral meetings and then attend a Pacific Regional Disability Conference on the 27th, before travelling to Kiribati and Tuvalu with me between 28 February and 3 March 2019 (as an extension to the travel previously approved by Cabinet).
- Minister Sio to travel to Fiji on 27 February and then onwards to Kiribati and Tuvalu with me between 28 February and 3 March 2019.

3 The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle for the above travel by respective Ministers.

Travel Objectives

Fiji (26 – 28 February): Minister Peters

4 I propose to travel to Fiji to undertake a bilateral visit. This would be the first Minister of Foreign Affairs visit to Fiji since May 2017. The objectives of my proposed travel are:

- Deepen links with senior Fijian Ministers s6(a)
- s6(a)

- Encourage Fiji to accede to PACER Plus;
- Visit New Zealand development funded programmes.

Fiji (26 – 28 February): Minister Sepuloni

5 Minister Sepuloni proposes to travel to Fiji to meet counterpart ministers (including those with responsibilities for disability issues and social development) and give a keynote speech at the 6th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability in Nadi. The objective of speaking at this conference is to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to deepening engagement on inclusive development in the region and share learning from New Zealand's experience on disability issues.

6 The Minister's bilateral meetings and attendance at the conference will help take forward the Pacific Reset, noting that New Zealand has committed to increasing engagement on values issues, including human rights and inclusive development. These engagements will also strengthen New Zealand's ability to reflect on domestic disability issues facing Pacific diaspora living in New Zealand. Cabinet has previously approved Minister Sepuloni's overseas travel for this purpose [CAB-18-MIN-0648 refers], but the travel dates have been moved to allow for the Minister to also participate in the delegation to Kiribati and Tuvalu.

Kiribati and Tuvalu (28 February to 2 March): Minister Peters, Minister Sepuloni, Minister Sio

7 From Fiji, I would lead a cross-party delegation (details below) to Kiribati and Tuvalu, noting that these countries have not been visited by a New Zealand Foreign Minister since June 2016. The objectives of the proposed travel are:

- As part of the Pacific Reset, deepen New Zealand's relationship with both Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- Hear first-hand from government and non-government stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities being faced by these small island developing states.
- Visit New Zealand development funded programmes.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities with the Tuvalu Government with respect to Tuvalu hosting the Pacific Islands Forum in mid-2019.

Travel

8 I propose to depart New Zealand for Suva on a commercial flight on the afternoon of 26 February; Minister Sepuloni proposes to depart New Zealand for Suva on a commercial flight on 26 February; and Minister Sio proposes to depart New Zealand for Suva on a commercial flight on 27 February.

9 On the morning of 28 February, we three ministers will depart Suva for Tarawa (Kiribati) with the cross-party delegation on-board a RNZAF C-130. On 1 March, we would depart Tarawa for Funafuti (Tuvalu). The following day we would fly to Nadi, staying overnight while waiting for commercial flights back to New Zealand. We will arrive back into Auckland early in the afternoon of 3 March.

10 Minister Sepuloni and I will not miss any sittings of Cabinet.

Ministerial Party

11 I will be accompanied by two staff member from my office – a press secretary and a foreign affairs private secretary. The travel costs for the press secretary and I will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. The costs of the private secretary will be separately covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

12 Both Minister Sepuloni and Minister Sio will be accompanied by one staff member from her office. Travel costs for respective Ministers (+1) will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

13 The proposed cross-party delegation is attached as appendix 1. Delegation members will be required to meet their own costs.

Acting Ministers

14 If Cabinet approves our travel:

- I propose that (from 26 February to 3 March 2019) Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio and Hon David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolios.
- Minister Sepuloni proposes that (from 26 February to 3 March 2019) Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues.
- Minister Sio proposes that (from 27 February to 3 March 2019) Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Pacific Peoples.

Costs of Travel

15 The projected costs of the proposed travel (including accompanying staff members) are:

Minister Peters

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Airfares: | \$6000 |
| Accommodation: | \$4000 |
| Meals: | \$1000 |
| Hospitality/gifts: | \$1000 |
| Contingency: | \$1500 |
| Total: | \$13,500 |

Minister Sepuloni (additional costs for new travel itinerary)

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Airfares: | \$5,173 |
| Accommodation: | \$804 |
| Meals: | \$1,566.60 |
| Total: | \$7,543.60 |

Minister Sio

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Airfares: | \$4,400 |
| Accommodation: | \$3,000 |
| Meals: | \$500 |

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Contingency: | \$300 |
| Total: | \$8,200 |

Proactive Release

16 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

17 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu from 26 February to 3 March 2019;
- b) **approve** proposed travel by Minister Sepuloni (26 February to 3 March) and Minister Sio (27 February to 3 March) to Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu;
- c) **note** Cabinet previously authorised Minister Sepuloni travelling to Fiji from 27 February to 2 March 2019 [CAB-18-MIN-0648 refers];
- d) **note** that I will be accompanied by two staff members from my office (the costs of the foreign affairs private secretary will be covered by MFAT), while Minister Sepuloni and Minister Sio will take one staff member respectively;
- e) **approve** expenditure up to \$29,243.60 for travel expenses for the official delegation (Rt Hon Peters \$13,500, Hon Sepuloni \$7,543.60, Hon Sio \$8,200) as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- f) **note** the expenditure for Minister Sepuloni is in addition to the expenditure approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2018 [CAB-18-MIN-0648 refers];
- g) **agree** that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio, and Hon David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 26 February to 3 March 2019;

- h) **agree** that Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister of Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues from 26 February to 3 March 2019;
- i) **agree** that Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Pacific Peoples from 27 February to 3 March 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Annex 1 – Proposed Delegation for Kiribati and Tuvalu

Ministers and MPs

- Minister Carmel Sepuloni
- Minister Aupito Sio
- Poto Williams MP
- Darroch Ball MP
- Marama Davidson MP
- Alfred Ngaro MP

In addition, there would be a small number of accompanying officials and media representatives.

Proactively released by the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactive Release

Date: 4 July 2019

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

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu (CAB-19-SUB-00132 refers)

Title of minute: Report Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters (CAB-19-MIN-0132 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 1 April 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-19-SUB-0132 on his travel, from 26 February to 3 March 2019, to:

- 1 Fiji to undertake a bilateral visit;
- 2 Kiribati and Tuvalu to lead a cross-party delegation as part of the Pacific Reset.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair,
Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: FIJI, KIRIBATI
and TUVALU: 26 FEBRUARY - 3 MARCH 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on travel to Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu between 26 February and 3 March 2019. Although submitted under my name, the report (Kiribati and Tuvalu sections) is intended to cover the two Ministers (Minister Sepuloni and Minister Sio) who accompanied me as part of the New Zealand delegation.

Report

2 Following a programme of bilateral engagements in Fiji (27 February), I led a Ministerial and Parliamentary delegation, travelling on a RNZAF C-130, to Kiribati and Tuvalu (28 February to 2 March). The delegation comprised Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues, Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Pacific Peoples Aupito, William Sio, and three cross-party MPs: Poto Williams (Labour), Darroch Ball (NZ First) and Alfred Ngaro (National). Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand Ewen McDonald (who will shortly head DFAT's new Pacific Office) and his Deputy also attended as well as New Zealand media representatives.

3 **Fiji.** Meetings were held with President Jioji Konrote, Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (in the absence of PM Bainimarama), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Inia Seruiratu, and opposition party leaders Sitiveni Rabuka and Biman Prasad.

4 During a meeting with Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Sayed-Khaiyum warmly welcomed the Pacific Reset and outlined a range of

opportunities he saw for increased Fiji-New Zealand cooperation including on capacity building in Fiji and on climate change (particularly in relation to ocean health). The meeting with Minister Seruiratu had a positive atmosphere and covered a wide range of topics, notably development cooperation, PACER Plus, and the challenges faced by Fiji's education and agriculture sectors. ^{s6(a)}

In response we highlighted the necessity of an effective opposition in a functioning democracy.

5 Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues Carmel Sepuloni and Minister for Pacific Peoples Aupito William Sio also had bilateral engagements in Fiji. Minister Sepuloni held a breakfast with Fiji's female MPs and meetings with Fiji's Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa, and Minister for Education, Rosy Sofia Akbar. She also delivered the key note address at the opening of the 6th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability in Nadi, helpfully raising the profile of the Forum and highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing persons with disabilities in New Zealand and the broader Pacific (a full travel report will be submitted separately by Minister Sepuloni on her engagements in Fiji). Minister Sio's meeting with Fiji's Minister of Health Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete provided an opportunity to exchange views on health challenges shared by New Zealand and Fiji.

6 Overall the visit to Fiji served to build close relationships and set a strong foundation for a year of stepped-up engagement. The visit also underscored the positive trajectory of the wider Fiji-New Zealand relationship and allowed for constructive interactions with the re-elected FijiFirst Government.

7 **Kiribati.** The Kiribati leg was the first high-level visit by a New Zealand minister since 2016 and shone a light on the many development challenges Kiribati is facing while emphasising where New Zealand's support is making a difference.

8 The visit usefully raised the profile of the New Zealand partnership with Kiribati, providing opportunities for constructive political level engagement and media coverage, as well opportunities to meet with civil society partners. Our bilateral meeting with President Taneti Maamau was warm and affirmed the deep friendship

between New Zealand and Kiribati. The conversation traversed a range of areas from the challenges that Kiribati faces vis-a-vis climate change, to Kiribati's 20 year vision for development, known as the 'KV20'. On the development front, there was a clear indication that New Zealand is working in areas which are priorities for Government of Kiribati. We announced two major projects: support for the Kiribati Institute of Technology, to increase the capacity of the main campus and modernise the nursing curriculum; and support for the design for a reticulated sanitation system. The commissioning of a Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant to improve water security was practical example of strengthening resilience.

9 Seeing first hand some of the social and environmental challenges facing Kiribati was an eye opening experience. The overall theme that New Zealand was walking the talk with the Pacific Reset, without any ulterior motives, was obvious throughout the trip and registered with the Government of Kiribati. The composition of the delegation sent a useful signal of the enduring and bi-partisan nature of New Zealand's commitment to Kiribati and the Pacific. Simple things, like Minister Sio's thank you speech on behalf of the delegation to the Kiribati Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development, where he made the comment "We [New Zealand] are here to stay" resonated with all those in the room.

10 **Tuvalu.** The delegation was warmly welcomed into Tuvalu with a strong acknowledgment that the bilateral relationship is strengthened through our shared Pacific and Polynesian heritage. The Government of Tuvalu placed a high level of importance on the signing of the [Tuvalu-New Zealand Statement of Partnership](#). Prime Minister Sopoaga noted that this, together with the mission itself, evinced New Zealand's re-energised approach to the bilateral relationship. He particularly welcomed the commitments relating to Climate Change signalled in the Statement (having in the lead up engaged personally in proposing amendments to text).

11 Highlights of the Pacific Mission in Tuvalu were the bilateral roundtable between the New Zealand parliamentary delegation and the Tuvalu Cabinet, the unveiling of a plaque at the New Zealand funded Fisheries building (where impressive fisheries revenue gains from New Zealand's development investments in this sector were noted) and, for the New Zealand delegation, a traditional Fatele. The

Australian delegates in the party were warmly welcomed (particularly HC Ewen McDonald given his role as chair of the Green Climate Fund Board that granted Tuvalu USD 38.8million for coastal protection).

12 On Tuvalu's preparations for the Pacific Islands Forum, the New Zealand delegation received a wide range of requests, s6(a)
s6(a)

Proactive Release

13 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

14 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs