

Proactive Release

Statutory Publication Date:
25 September 2023

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Climate Change

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon James Shaw</i>	CAB-23-MIN-0368
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon James Shaw</i>	



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: Hon James Shaw

Portfolio Climate Change

On 14 August 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon James Shaw from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 20 to 23 August 2023, to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Pacific High Level Climate Dialogue, and Pacific Climate Change Ministers' Roundtable;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff and the Opposition spokesperson for Climate Change;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$13,500 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in his absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Climate Change;
- 5 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon James Shaw

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Pacific High Level Climate Dialogue and Pacific Climate Change Ministers' Roundtable from 20 to 23 August 2023.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Musterer.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 I propose to attend the following meetings:
 - 3.1 UNFCCC Pacific High Level Climate Dialogue which will support a deep level dialogue on Pacific Small Island Developing States priority issues; and
 - 3.2 Australia-hosted Pacific Climate Change Ministers' Roundtable which will be an opportunity to discuss shared priorities for a Pacific-hosted COP31.
- 4 The meeting objectives align closely with New Zealand's agreed international climate change priorities including lifting global ambition; and Pacific resilience and an empowered Pacific transition [ENV-23-MIN-0035].

Benefits of New Zealand Attendance

- 5 These meetings are particularly significant in the lead up to this year's UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, COP28. The meetings present the only Ministerial-level opportunity for Pacific pre-COP climate change discussions this year.
- 6 Effective global action has been, and remains, New Zealand's primary objective for international climate change engagement. We are at a once in five-year point in the Paris Agreement architecture, to secure a global course correction through the 'Global Stocktake' of progress in implementing the Agreement.
- 7 I expect discussions will lay the necessary foundation for securing ambitious outcomes for the Global Stocktake at COP28 through a strong and united regional voice.

The key benefits of Ministerial attendance include:

- 7.1 Lend profile and support to New Zealand's COP objectives and priorities that seek to drive ambitious action on climate change;
- 7.2 Deepen relationships with Pacific climate change ministers, and position New Zealand as an advocate for Pacific interests;
- 7.3 Demonstrate our support for Australia's bid to co-host COP31 in partnership with the Pacific and participate in discussions on how to deliver COP31 in a way that reflects regional interests.

Bilateral Meetings and Events

- 8 There are likely to be opportunities for bilateral meetings with a range of countries at senior level including the United Arab Emirates, Cook Islands, Samoa and Australia.

Ministerial Party

- 9 I seek Cabinet approval of funding for myself, one Opposition spokesperson and one member of my staff.

Travel Costs

- 11 The estimated costs of travel are as follows:

Airfares	\$ 7,200.00
Accommodation	\$ 3,900.00
Other expenses, including transport, incidentals	\$ 2,400.00
Total	<u>\$ 13,500.00</u>

Acting Ministers

- 12 Hon. David Parker will act as Minister of Climate Change.

Proactive release

- 13 I propose to release this paper proactively in whole or in part, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
 - 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, to travel to Fiji from 20 to 23 August 2023;
 - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff and one Opposition spokesperson for Climate Change;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$13,500 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 agree that in my absence Hon. David Parker act as Minister of Climate Change;
 - 1.5 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from/approved by the Party Musterer.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change

Proactively Released by the Minister of Climate Change