

Proactive Release

Statutory Publication Date:
30 November 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel; Hon Nanaia Mahuta	

There is no Cabinet Minute for this Cabinet Paper. It was approved by Ministers with Power to Act.

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji from 13 - 16 September (inclusive) to participate in the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FFMM).
2. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

3. The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) remains critical to Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy objectives. As the pre-eminent Pacific-led mechanism for regional engagement, the PIF is a core platform for Pacific countries to *talanoa* and build consensus on shared challenges. Aotearoa New Zealand has a strong interest in working with Forum Members to strengthen our collective resilience to current and emerging threats through strong regional unity.
4. At the meeting, my objectives will include facilitating agreement of an implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; reforming the dialogue partner process and shaping discussions on PIF centrality; and reinforcing Pacific leadership on climate ambition and Pacific climate resilience.
5. Given the Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting has been deferred, this meeting, following the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting held in August, will be a critical to advance Aotearoa New Zealand's priorities and focus areas ahead of the 52nd Forum Leaders Week, 6-10 November, in Cook Islands.
6. If travel is approved, I will depart Aotearoa New Zealand on a commercial flight on 13 September and return by the same means on 16 September.

Ministerial Party

7. I propose to be accompanied by one Private Secretary from my office and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Acting Ministers

8. If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

Estimated Cost

9. The estimated cost for this travel is:

Flights	Flights for two people from Auckland to Suva.	\$7,854
Accommodation	3 nights for two people	\$2,595
Meals	6 meals for two people	\$480
Hospitality and Events	\$100 per person	\$200
Gifts	4 gifts	\$600
Miscellaneous		\$50
Subtotal		\$11,779
<i>Contingency 15%</i>		\$1767
TOTAL		\$13,545

Recommendations

1. I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1. **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 13 to 16 September 2023 to travel to Suva, Fiji.
- 1.2. **Agree** that I will be accompanied by a Private Secretary from my office.
- 1.3. **Note** that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 1.4. **Approve** the expenditure of \$13,545 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 1.5. **Agree** that in my absence Hon Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs