

Proactive Release

Statutory Publication Date:
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The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	CAB-23-MIN-0427
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – East Asia Summit, Jakarta, 6-8 Spetember 2023	

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Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;



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 Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 4 September 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand, from 6 to 8 September 2023, to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the East Asia Summit;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$26,868 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 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[IN CONFIDENCE]~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – East Asia Summit, Jakarta, 6-8 September 2023

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia from 6 to 8 September to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the East Asia Summit (EAS).
- 2 Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has approved this travel in-principle.

Executive Summary

- 3 The annual Leader-level East Asia Summit (EAS), convened by the ASEAN Chair (this year Indonesia), will be hosted in Jakarta on 7 September. Attended by the 10 members of ASEAN as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, Aotearoa New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States, the EAS is considered to be the region's premier leaders' forum for addressing strategic challenges, particularly in our wider home region of the Indo-Pacific.
- 4 Aotearoa New Zealand is an engaged and constructive partner to ASEAN, with an interest in its strength and success. Aotearoa New Zealand has cultivated a reputation based on respect, reliability and our support for ASEAN's centrality in the region. Attendance at these meetings at a senior political level is an important aspect of maintaining our profile as a committed and reliable partner with ASEAN. We have the opportunity to register our views and also take the pulse on issues impacting the region such as Russia's war against Ukraine, Myanmar, DPRK and South China Sea.
- 5 If time and availability permits, I would also meet with my Ministerial counterparts from ASEAN and from other EAS participating and observer countries to discuss issues of mutual importance.
- 6 My participation in the EAS would deliver on the following objectives:
 - Maintain Aotearoa New Zealand's profile and influence in a competitive geopolitical environment;
 - Re-emphasise Aotearoa New Zealand's positions on the core issues affecting the rules-based order and strategic environment in our region;
 - Demonstrate the importance of Southeast Asia to Aotearoa New Zealand through support for Indonesia's flagship event, the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum.

Travel

7 If my travel is approved, I will depart Auckland on Wednesday 6 September, arriving to Jakarta that evening. I intend to return to New Zealand on Thursday 7 September, arriving into Auckland on Friday 8 September. The substantive elements of my visit will take place on Thursday 7 September.

Ministerial Party

8 I propose to be accompanied by one staff member paid for by Ministerial Resources. I will also be accompanied by officials whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Estimated Costs

9 The estimated costs for this travel are:

	Cost and Comment	Total
Flights	Minister + one staff member @ NZD 11,269 per person	NZD 22,538
Accommodation	s6(a) – one nights (6 Sept) @ NZD 275 Minister's room will be covered by ASEAN.	NZD 275
Gifts	Up to 3 gifts for counterpart Ministers	NZD 450
Other meals / miscellaneous	MFAT per diem rates for business travel: Jakarta Staff member ad-hoc meals/snacks x1 days: NZD 100/day Minister's meals and hotel costs covered by hosts.	NZD 100
Subtotal		NZD 23,363
Contingency 15%		NZD 3,505
Total		NZD 26,868

Acting Ministers

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

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 6 – 8 September to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the East Asia Summit.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by a member of my staff paid for by Ministerial Services.
- 3 Note that I will be accompanied by officials whose costs will be met the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$26,868 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 will be Acting Minister in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere