

# Proactive Release

10/04/2023

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i></b>	CAB-23-MIN-0040
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i></b>	

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

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



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 20 February 2023, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand, from 26 February to 3 March 2023, to travel to:
  - 1.1      Tokyo, Japan for bilateral discussions;
  - 1.2      Singapore to attend the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers meeting, and associated events;
- 2        **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$39,744 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, and a small group of iwi leaders for the Japan leg of the visit, whose costs will be met from the Serious Asia Fund (held by the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Trade);
- 5        **agreed** that in her absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

Rachel Hayward  
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 Japan and Singapore 26 February – 3 March inclusive.
- 2 Then-Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern approved the travel in-principle in December 2022.

**Executive Summary**

- 3 My visit to Japan will be at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Minister. The visit supports the further development of the bilateral relationship with Japan, as well as links between Māori and Japanese interests. My visit to Singapore is to attend the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers Meeting.
- 4 Japan is a priority due to the importance of the relationship for Aotearoa New Zealand's interests. Japan is one of New Zealand's closest and most like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, and is influential globally. As our fourth largest trading partner, a major investment partner and one of our top sources of visitors and students, Japan is also important for New Zealand's economic well-being and trade diversification strategy. It is vital that we strengthen our cooperation on shared interests including our economic recovery, our response to climate change, regional security challenges, and threats to the international rules-based order.
- 5 My specific objectives for the visit to Japan are to:
  - Strengthen dialogue on shared strategic interests in the Pacific, Indo-Pacific and globally;
  - Refresh the 2019 Japan-New Zealand Declaration on Pacific Cooperation;
  - Promote early conclusion of the Japan-New Zealand Information Sharing Agreement (ISA), which our Prime Ministers have agreed to negotiate;
  - Establish new Japan-New Zealand working-level talks on disarmament and non-proliferation<sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - Highlight and strengthen Māori links with Japan.
- 6 These objectives advance Aotearoa New Zealand's efforts to work closely with Japan in support of regional stability, security and prosperity. They build on outcomes of then-Prime Minister Ardern's visit in April 2022. They also highlight the significant links and interests that Māori have with Japan culturally and in the economic sphere, and build the profile of indigenous foreign policy in our relationship with Japan.



**IN CONFIDENCE**

- 7 On my return from Tokyo I will visit Singapore to attend the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers meeting. The specific objectives for my visit to Singapore are to:
- Reconnect with an important network of contacts from across Asia at the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers meeting;
  - Build the relationship with Singapore's Defence Minister Ng; and
  - Sign Aotearoa New Zealand's Statement of Partnership with Timor-Leste.

**Outline of Proposed Visit**

- 8 The programme in Japan will include meetings, engagements and networking events with Japanese political leaders, Japan-New Zealand community representatives, and business leaders and representatives. I will meet Japan's Foreign Minister Hayashi and Secretary-General of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Motegi (who recently visited New Zealand). I will host Pacific Ambassadors based in Tokyo for a meeting, and meet Japanese parliamentarians. I will attend an event to promote people to people links (tourism, education, business and cultural) between New Zealand and Japan. I will also support engagement and relationships with Japanese counterparts for Māori leaders who will accompany me on the visit, across Maori-Japan interests in trade, investment, renewable energy and climate, and cultural links.
- 9 In Singapore I will attend the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers meeting and associated events. The Asia Honorary Advisers are a group of high level representatives including ministers, politicians, academics and business leaders from across Asia with an interest in New Zealand. Attendance at the meeting will allow me to reconnect with this important network and to hear their take on the region, as well as how Aotearoa New Zealand is perceived within it. While in Singapore I will meet bilaterally with Singapore's Defence Minister and Timor-Leste's Minister of Foreign Affairs (both of whom are Asia Honorary Advisers). The meeting with my Timorese counterpart will also be an opportunity to sign Aotearoa New Zealand's Statement of Partnership with Timor-Leste.
- 10 I will depart for Japan on 26 February, arriving the same day. I will travel from Japan to Singapore on 1 March. I will depart Singapore on 2 March, and arrive back to New Zealand on 3 March.

**Ministerial Party**

- 11 I propose to be accompanied by one staff member paid for by ministerial services. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me, with costs met by their department. A small delegation of iwi leaders will accompany on the Japan leg of the visit with their costs met from the Seriously Asia Fund (held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

**Estimated Costs**

- 12 The estimated cost for this travel is:

<b>Flights</b>	\$26,000
<b>Accommodation</b> Accommodation in Japan to be covered by the Japanese Government (at no cost to Ministerial services).	\$820

IN CONFIDENCE

Accommodation in Singapore required for Minister Mahuta (NZ\$500) and the accompanying staff member (NZ\$320).	
<b>Gifts</b> Japan only; no gifts required in Singapore.	\$650
<b>Representation and events</b> Five events in Japan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunchtime reception focused on Japan-NZ-Pacific links - includes Pacific Ambassadors, Japanese MPs and officials;</li> <li>- Evening reception to promote Japan-NZ people links – includes a Japan-based Māori cultural group, Ainu community members, New Zealanders living in Japan and education contacts;</li> <li>- Japan-NZ Business Council roundtable meeting focused on Māori-Japan business connections;</li> <li>- Meeting and refreshments with New Zealand’s Honorary Consuls in Japan;</li> <li>- Breakfast with Japanese MPs from the Japan-NZ Parliamentary Friendship League.</li> </ul> <p>My office will cover approximately 40% of the total cost of these events. MFAT will cover the rest.</p> <p>There will be no cost for the events in Singapore – all events are hosted by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.</p>	\$7090
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$34,560
<b>Contingency</b>	\$5184
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,744</b>

**Acting Ministers**

- 13 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister for my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control 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 26 February to 3 March inclusive.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by a member of my staff paid for by ministerial services.
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and a small group of iwi leaders for the Japan leg of the visit.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$39,744 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.

**IN CONFIDENCE**

- 5 Agree that Hon David Parker will act as Minister for my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control and Hon Willie Jackson will act as Associate Minister of Māori Development in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Proactively Released  
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs