

# Proactive Release

Date: 6 March 2024

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – December 2023	CAB-24-MIN-0005
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Friday 15 Saturday – Saturday 16 December 2023	

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Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 6(b)(ii): to protect the passing of information from an international organisation on a confidential basis.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - December 2023

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 23 January 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0005 on his travel, from 15 to 16 December 2023, to Suva, Fiji for a bilateral visit.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~[Restricted]~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Friday 15 Saturday – Saturday 16 December 2023**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Suva, Fiji from Friday 15 December to Saturday 16 December 2023 to meet with key Pacific political leaders, including Fiji's Prime Minister and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General over a busy 22-hour programme.

#### **Report**

- 1 In my first overseas visit of this parliamentary term, we travelled to Suva, Fiji to hold meetings with Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, Tuvalu's Prime Minister Kausea Natano, Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Henry Puna and Fiji's Leader of the Opposition Inia Seruiratu. We engaged with a range of other Fijian political leaders (including Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad, Health Minister Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Home Affairs and Immigration Minister Pio Tikoduadua), as well as the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) Jone Kalouniwai. We also visited a New Zealand-funded health centre refurbishment.
- 2 A number of familiar, but pertinent, themes arose during the visit: the importance and urgency of maintaining strong New Zealand-Pacific relationships and engagement; security cooperation; the emerging priority of building skills in the context of acute skilled labour shortages; and key global issues including the Gaza/Israel conflict and managing major power relations. Pacific leaders registered that climate resilience remains at the top of their priority list, but that skilled migration is not far behind in terms of economic recovery and development.
- 3 Overall this visit succeeded in setting the tone that the New Zealand Government is looking to lift our Pacific engagement by deepening and strengthening our relationships in the region.

#### **Meeting with Fiji's Prime Minister**

- 4 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

5 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

6 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

7 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

8 s6(b)(i)

#### **Meeting with Tuvalu's Prime Minister**

9 We met with Tuvalu's Prime Minister Kausea Natano, who was not part of the initial visit programme s6(b)(i)

#### **Meeting with PIF Secretary General Puna**

10 s6(b)(ii)

11 s6(b)(ii)

### **Meeting with Fiji's Leader of the Opposition**

- 12 We met with Leader of the Opposition Inia Seruiratu and General Secretary of Fiji First Faiyaz Koya. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

### **Visit to Nausori Health Centre**

- 13 Fiji Minister of Health Lalabalavu and Michael Valente, Fiji Country Manager at Fletchers South Pacific, hosted our delegation for a visit to the Nausori Health Centre, which is currently being refurbished as part of a NZ\$2.9 million development activity to upgrade ten health centres across Fiji. New Zealand was thanked for its support.

### **Proactive release**

- 14 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt. Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs