

# Proactive Release

On or before 6 August 2024

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>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Mark Mitchell – July 2024</i></b>	CAB-24-MIN-0227
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Mark Mitchell – July 2024</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 code:

- 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

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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: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Mark Mitchell – July 2024

**Portfolios**                      **Foreign Affairs / Corrections / Police**

On 24 June 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Mark Mitchell from New Zealand, from 1 to 6 July 2024, to travel to the Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Niue for bilateral visits;
- 2        **agreed** that they be accompanied by a delegation of four Members of Parliament, and one staff member each;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$35,396 for the travel expenses of the ministerial delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that they will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry, and a media delegation who will meet their own costs;
- 5        **noted** that the delegation will travel by New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 6        **agreed** that in the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters:
  - 6.1      Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 6.2      Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Racing;
- 7        **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Mark Mitchell:
  - 7.1      Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery;
  - 7.2      Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Minister of Corrections from 1 to 3 July 2024;
  - 7.3      Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Corrections from 4 to 6 July 2024;
  - 7.4      Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Police;

8 **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – July 2024**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Niue from Monday 1 July to Saturday 6 July 2024 as part of the Government's efforts to prioritise our Pacific relationships and reinforce New Zealand as a key partner for Pacific Island countries.
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

#### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 Against the backdrop of the foreign policy reset agreed to by Cabinet, and our deep focus on the Pacific, the three destinations selected for this travel are critical partners to New Zealand and reflect our ambition of visiting all Pacific Island Forum countries before the end of 2024. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

At a high level, the visit seeks to reaffirm the importance New Zealand places on these relationships.

- 4 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

- 5 All three partners are members of the PIF. Incoming PIF Secretary-General, Baron Waqa, is a former President of Nauru. Solomon Islands will be PIF Chair in 2025. Each therefore has a particular role to play in regional issues in the coming months. The PIF is the pre-eminent Pacific-led regional mechanism and is the core platform for Pacific countries to discuss and build consensus on shared challenges. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

- 6 Furthermore, New Zealand and Niue have unique constitutional obligations and mutual expectations. Following the Prime Minister's recent visit to Niue, New Zealand's status as the primary partner will be reinforced, as Niue celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Self-Government in Free Association with New Zealand.



- 7 The objectives for this visit include:
  - 7.1 Embedding the principles of the foreign policy reset agreed by Cabinet by continuing to prioritise our Pacific relationships;
  - 7.2 Building New Zealand's relationship with the leadership of the governments of Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Niue, especially in light of recent high-level engagements;
  - 7.3 Highlighting our shared focus on addressing Pacific priorities, particularly the existential threat posed by climate change;
  - 7.4 Reinforcing New Zealand as a key partner for the Pacific on common international challenges, and discussing key issues related to the PIF within the Indo-Pacific region; and
  - 7.5 Highlighting the important role the New Zealand International Development Cooperation programme plays in supporting Pacific governments to deliver on their long-term development goals.
- 8 To achieve our objectives, the visit programme in Solomon Islands is expected to include:
  - 8.1 A visit to Honiara for official meetings with senior government representatives, including Prime Minister Manele, Deputy Prime Minister Tovosia, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shanel;
  - 8.2 Travel to Seghe to take part in the formal handover of Seghe Airport, an Independence Day gift from New Zealand and Australia to Solomon Islands and meet local communities who will benefit from the airport;
  - 8.3 Attendance at a Matariki celebration; and
  - 8.4 A visit RNZAF WWII memorial *Bloody Ridge* to lay a wreath and unveil a plaque to commemorate New Zealand's WWII presence in Solomon Islands and to honour the contribution of the 500 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel who served as part of Solomon Islands' International Assistance Force between 2021-2024.
- 9 In Nauru the delegation expects to:
  - 9.1 Hold official engagements with President Adeang and Minister Assisting the President, Foreign Minister Aingimea; and
  - 9.2 Visit Parliament and meet with Members.
- 10 In Niue the programme is likely to include:
  - 10.1 Official meetings with Premier Tagelagi and other senior representatives of Niue;
  - 10.2 Engagements profiling New Zealand's development activities;

- 10.3 Engagements with local communities, including to highlight language and culture educational initiatives in Niue's schools.

### Ministerial Party

- 11 The delegation is expected to include Police and Corrections Minister Hon Mark Mitchell, Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC) Tim van de Molen, FADTC member and Opposition Associate Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Hon Damien O'Connor, FADTC member Teanau Tuiono, and Labour Pacific Caucus Chair Hon Jenny Salesa. From this Office, the Senior Specialist Ministerial Advisor is proposed to accompany the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Mitchell will be accompanied by a Private Secretary. Travel costs for this delegation will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 12 Accompanying this group will be a Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) from this Office, along with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. These costs will be covered by the Ministry.
- 13 A media delegation has been invited to accompany and would be expected to meet their own costs.
- 14 The delegation will depart for Solomon Islands on Monday 1 July via NZDF Boeing 757 before traveling on to Nauru and Niue, returning to New Zealand on Saturday 6 July via the same asset.

### Travel Costs

- 15 The estimated costs of the travel for the full delegation of eight include<sup>1</sup>:

Airfares: <sup>2</sup>	\$ 2,200
Accommodation:	\$ 16,190
Ground transportation	\$ 1,620
Reception event in Niue	\$ 4,500
Gifts	\$ 3,680
Meals	\$ 5,520
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,685.50

**Total: \$ (rounded up to nearest \$) 35,396**

<sup>1</sup> Rt Hon Winston Peters, Senior Specialist Ministerial Advisor to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Hon Mark Mitchell, Ministerial Advisor to Hon Mark Mitchell, Tim van de Molen, Damien O'Connor, Teanau Tuiono, Jenny Salesa.

<sup>2</sup> One commercial flight for Minister Mitchell from Australia to Solomon Islands. All other flight costs to be covered by NZDF.



## Acting Ministers

- 16 Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio, and Hon Chris Bishop will cover the racing portfolio.
- 17 Hon Simeon Brown will cover Hon Mark Mitchell's Emergency Management and Recovery portfolio, with Hon Paul Goldsmith (1-3 July) and Hon Casey Costello (4-6 July) covering his Corrections portfolio. Hon Casey Costello will cover Minister Mitchell's Police portfolio.

## Proactive release

- 18 This Cabinet paper is proposed for proactive release, 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, from Monday 1 July to Saturday 6 July 2024;
  - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by Minister of Police Mark Mitchell, four other Members of Parliament, by my Specialist Ministerial Adviser, and an Adviser from Minister Mitchell's office, with costs charged back to Vote Internal Affairs – Members of the Executive – Travel;
  - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$35,396 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial delegation, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
  - 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs), seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to my Office, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
  - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
    - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio;
    - 1.5.2 Hon Chris Bishop will cover my racing portfolio;
    - 1.5.3 Hon Simeon Brown will cover Hon Mark Mitchell's Emergency Management and Recovery portfolio;
    - 1.5.4 Hon Paul Goldsmith (1-3 July) and Hon Casey Costello (4-6 July) will cover Hon Mark Mitchell's Corrections portfolio;
    - 1.5.5 Hon Casey Costello will cover Hon Mark Mitchell's Police portfolio.
  - 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Minister of Foreign Affairs