

Proactive Release

Statutory Release Date: 28 May 2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters, Hon Dr Shane Reti and Hon Simon Watts – May 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0130
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Minister of Foreign Affairs Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon Dr Shane Reti, and Minister of Climate Change Hon Simon Watts: Sunday 12 May – Saturday 18 May 2024 (inclusive)</i>	

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

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: Rt Hon Winston Peters, Hon Dr Shane Reti and Hon Simon Watts - May 2024

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Pacific Peoples / Climate Change

On 15 April 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters, and that of Hon Dr Shane Reti and Hon Simon Watts, from New Zealand from 12 to 18 May 2024, to travel to Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tuvalu for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that they be accompanied by one member of staff each, Tim van der Molen MP, a representative from the Opposition, and one member of staff in support of the representative from the Opposition;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of \$44,163 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that they will also be accompanied by:
 - 4.1 a member of staff from the office of Rt Hon Winston Peters and an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will both be met by the Ministry;
 - 4.2 a delegation of media, who will meet their own costs;
- 5 **noted** that the ministerial party and accompanying delegation will travel to and from New Zealand on 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 from 12 to 15 May 2024;
 - 6.2 Hon Nicola Willis act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 16 to 18 May 2024;
 - 6.3 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 7 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Dr Shane Reti:
 - 7.1 Hon Matt Doocey act as Minister of Health;
 - 7.2 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Pacific Peoples;

- 8 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Simon Watts:
- 8.1 Hon Nicola Willis act as Minister of Climate Change;
 - 8.2 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister of Revenue;
- 9 **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: Minister of Foreign Affairs Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon Dr Shane Reti, and Minister of Climate Change Hon Simon Watts: Sunday 12 May – Saturday 18 May 2024 (inclusive)

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tuvalu from Sunday 12 May to Saturday 18 May 2024.
- 2 I propose to be accompanied by the Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon Shane Reti, and the Minister of Climate Change Hon Simon Watts.
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 4 The four Pacific destinations selected for this travel are important partners to New Zealand. We enjoy a high level of standing and influence amongst these partners and this visit is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance New Zealand places on these relationships.
- 5 As New Caledonia is an overseas territory of France, our engagement in that territory will include meeting with the Government of France and its representatives. We will aim to understand France's perspective on regional developments and seek opportunities for further regional collaboration.
- 6 s6(a)
- 7 All four partners are members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). The PIF is the preeminent Pacific-led regional mechanism and is the core platform for Pacific countries to discuss and build consensus on shared challenges. This visit will provide an opportunity to build support for New Zealand's positions on key issues ahead of PIF meetings later this year.
- 8 We will also use the opportunity of this visit to:
 - Build New Zealand's relationship with the leadership of the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tuvalu; as well as the Government of France in respect of its interests in the Pacific.

- Highlight our shared focus on addressing Pacific priorities, particularly the existential threat posed by climate change.
- Reinforce New Zealand as a key partner for Pacific colleagues on common international challenges; and discuss key issues related to the PIF and more broadly within the Indo-Pacific region.
- Highlight the important role the New Zealand International Development Cooperation programme plays in supporting Pacific governments to deliver on their long-term development goals.

Outline of Proposed visit

9 During the visit to Papua New Guinea, I intend to meet:

- Prime Minister, Hon James Marape
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Justin Tkatchenko
- Autonomous Bougainville Government President, Hon Ishmael Toroama

10 During the visit to Vanuatu, I intend to meet:

- President of Vanuatu, His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu
- Prime Minister, Hon Charlot Salwai
- Deputy Prime Minister / Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Matai Seremaiah

11 During the visit to New Caledonia, I intend to meet:

- President of the Government of New Caledonia, Louis Mapou
- French High Commissioner to New Caledonia, Louis Le Franc
- Director General of the South Pacific Community, Dr Stuart Minchin

12 During the visit to Tuvalu, I intend to meet:

- Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon Feleti Teo
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon Panapasi Nelesone
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade, Hon Paulson Panapa.

13 I plan to visit New Zealand development projects across the four countries involved in this programme.

14 If travel is approved, I plan to depart for Papua New Guinea on Sunday 12 May via NZDF Boeing 757. I then plan to travel to Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tuvalu (in that order), returning to New Zealand on Saturday 18 May via the same asset. An NZDF C-130 will be required for the Tuvalu leg of the travel.

- 15 This scheduled visit will not affect attendance at any Cabinet or Cabinet Committee meetings.

Ministerial Party

- 16 I propose to be accompanied by the Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon Shane Reti; and the Minister of Climate Change Hon Simon Watts; FADTC Chair Tim van de Molen and a representative of the Opposition.
- 17 From the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs I propose to be accompanied by a Senior Press Secretary. One staff member from the Offices of the Minister of Pacific Peoples and the Minister of Climate Change will also join the delegation. One member of staff supporting the representative from the Opposition will also accompany. Travel costs for this delegation will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 18 I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as my seconded Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor. Their travel costs will be covered by the Ministry.
- 19 In addition, I propose to invite members of the New Zealand media to accompany on the visit. Accompanying media will cover their own costs.

Travel Costs

- 20 The estimated costs of the travel would be:

ITEM	COST
Flights	Cost covered by NZDF
Papua New Guinea	
Accommodation for 9 people <i>2 nights, \$450-\$500 per night</i>	NZ\$8,550
Ground transport	NZ\$500
Reception event for 9 people <i>150 people – at \$60 per head, total cost \$9,000 Costs split with MFAT (50/50). The Government of Papua New Guinea may make a financial contribution to this reception, however this is yet to be confirmed</i>	NZ\$4,500
Gifts <i>For Prime Minister and Foreign Minister at \$300 per gift</i>	NZ\$600
Meals for 9 people <i>Two dinners (12 and 13 May) at NZ\$150 per person. Other meals provided as part of the programme</i>	NZ\$2,850
Papua New Guinea total	NZ\$17,000
Vanuatu	
Accommodation for 9 people <i>1 night, \$300 per night</i>	NZ\$2,700
Ground transport	NZ\$500
Reception event at Official Residence <i>60 people –at \$70 per head, total cost \$4,200</i>	NZ\$2,100

ITEM	COST
<i>Cost split with MFAT (50/50)</i>	
Gifts <i>For President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister for Climate Change, Minister of Health, and FADTC Chair counterpart at \$300 per gift</i>	NZ\$1,800
Meals for 9 people <i>Light meal/snacks on arrival and prior to departure for 9 people – \$25 per head (\$500)</i> <i>Dinner at hotel – \$70 per head (\$700)</i> <i>Breakfast with President – \$30 per head (\$300)</i> <i>Formal lunch with Vanuatu Foreign Minister – \$120 per head (\$1,200)</i>	NZ\$2,430
Vanuatu total	NZ\$9,530
New Caledonia	
Accommodation for 9 people <i>1 night \$450-600 per room</i>	NZ\$4,720
Interpreter <i>For meetings with High Commissioner, President of Government, and engagement at Congress</i>	NZ\$1,000
Ground transport	NZ\$500
Reception <i>French High Commission to provide main financial support for event.</i>	NZ\$500
Meals <i>Breakfast – \$50 per head (\$500)</i> <i>Lunch – \$50 per head (\$500)</i> <i>Dinner – \$70 per head (\$700)</i>	NZ\$1,530
Gifts <i>For President of Government and President of Congress at \$300 per gift. Gifts for High Commissioner and DG SPC at \$200 per gift.</i>	NZ\$1,000
New Caledonia total	NZ\$9,250
Tuvalu	
Accommodation for 9 people <i>2 nights, \$220 per night</i>	NZ\$4,180
Meals for 9 people <i>Breakfast – covered by Government of Tuvalu</i> <i>Lunch – at \$50 per head (\$500)</i> <i>Dinner – at \$50 per head (\$500)</i>	NZ\$900
Gifts <i>For Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Transport, Energy, Communication and Innovation at \$300 per gift</i>	NZ\$1,200
Ground transport	Costs covered by the Government of Tuvalu – no cost
Tuvalu total	NZ\$6,280
Subtotal	NZ\$42,060

ITEM	COST
Contingency 5% (rounded)	NZ\$2,103
Overall travel total	NZ\$44,163

Acting Ministers

21 If travel is approved:

21.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover the Foreign Affairs portfolio from 12 – 15 May (inclusive). Hon Nicola Willis will cover the Foreign Affairs portfolio 16 – 18 May (inclusive);

21.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover both the Racing and Revenue portfolios;

21.3 Hon Matt Doocey will cover the Health portfolio;

21.4 Hon Tama Potaka will cover the Pacific Peoples portfolio; and

21.5 Hon Nicola Willis will cover the Climate Change portfolio.

Proactive release

22 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

23 I recommend that Cabinet:

23.1 authorise my absence and my ministerial colleagues absences from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from Sunday 12 May to Saturday 18 May 2024 to travel to Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tuvalu for a high-level visit;

23.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$44,163 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;

23.3 agree that I be accompanied by: the Minister for Pacific Peoples, the Minister of Climate Change, the Chair of FADTC; two members of staff from the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; one member of staff each from the Offices of the Minister for Pacific Peoples and the Minister of Climate Change; a representative from the Opposition; and one member of staff supporting the representative from the Opposition;

23.4 note that we will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be covered by the Ministry;

- 23.5 note that we will be accompanied by a delegation of media, who will cover their own costs;
- 23.6 agree that in our absence from Sunday 12 May to Saturday 18 May 2024:
- 23.6.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover the Foreign Affairs portfolio from 12 – 15 May (inclusive). Hon Nicola Willis will cover the Foreign Affairs portfolio from 16 – 18 May (inclusive);
 - 23.6.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover both the Racing and Revenue portfolios;
 - 23.6.3 Hon Matt Doocey will cover the Health portfolio;
 - 23.6.4 Hon Tama Potaka will cover the Pacific Peoples portfolio;
 - 23.6.5 Hon Nicola Willis will cover the Climate Change portfolio; and
- 23.7 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs