

# Proactive Release

Statutory Release Date  
11/06/2024

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – March 2024</i></b>	CAB-24-MIN-0145
<b><i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – March 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 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.*

### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – March 2024

Portfolio                      Internal Affairs

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet noted the report from Hon Brooke van Velden under CAB-24-SUB-0145 on her travel, from 16 to 20 March 2024, to Seoul, Republic of Korea, to attend the Summit for Democracy and hold bilateral discussions, and to meet with members of the New Zealand business community and Korean businesses with interests in New Zealand.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Minister of Internal Affairs

## In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Internal Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – March 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Seoul, Republic of Korea, from Saturday 16 March to Wednesday 20 March 2024 to represent New Zealand at the Summit for Democracy.

#### Report

- 1 The main purpose of the visit was to ensure New Zealand was represented at senior political level at the Summit for Democracy – an important international engagement convened by the United States and hosted by the Republic of Korea.
- 2 Ministerial attendance at the Summit demonstrates New Zealand's investment in our relationships with the Republic of Korea <sup>s6(a)</sup> and it highlights our commitment to the specific themes of the forum (artificial intelligence and disinformation, and their implications for democracy).
- 3 At the Summit I delivered a National Statement on New Zealand's commitment to supporting democratic institutions, and the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy. At the margins of the Summit, I also met a number of leaders, including United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul, UK Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden, Australian Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Tim Watts, Swedish Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin, Irish Minister of State for Public Expenditure and Reform Ossian Smyth, and Estonian Minister of Economic Affairs and Information Technology Tiit Riisalo.
- 4 During my trip I visited the Demilitarised Zone to demonstrate New Zealand's ongoing commitment to supporting peace on the Korean Peninsula and met the New Zealand Defence Force personnel stationed at the Joint Security Area, United Nations (UN) Command. The value of New Zealand's ongoing contribution to the UN Command was brought home by North Korea's firing of three ballistic missiles during my visit to Korea <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 5 In my capacity as Minister for Internal Affairs, I met with Fire and Emergency counterparts to discuss our respective approaches. I was impressed with their emergency response system which used technology effectively to improve responses.

- 6 I hosted a breakfast at the New Zealand Residence for members of the New Zealand business community and Korean businesses with interests in New Zealand. As the first Minister to visit the Republic of Korea since the coalition government took office, I took the opportunity to reiterate the Government's ambition to double the value of exports from New Zealand over the next ten years and to acknowledge the crucial role of key markets (such as Korea) in achieving this.
- 7 Finally, I lay a wreath at the National War Memorial to acknowledge the contribution of more than 6,000 New Zealanders who fought in the Korean War

#### **Proactive release**

- 8 I intend to proactively release this paper within 30 business days in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Brooke van Velden  
Minister for Internal Affairs

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Minister of Internal Affairs