

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 19/09/2024

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - August 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0278
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - 8 to 16 August 2024	

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 section of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reason 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 - August 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 5 August 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 8 to 16 August 2024, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Suva, Fiji, to attend the Pacific Island Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
 - 1.2 the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau to undertake bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by three Members of Parliament: Tim van de Molen, Hon Jenny Salesa, and Teanau Tuiono; and two members of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of \$43,944 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he 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, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - 8 to 16 August 2024

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau from Thursday 8 August to Friday 16 August 2024 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of the travel is to enable attendance at the the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) in Suva, Fiji; followed by bilateral visits to the three Micronesian countries in the Northern Pacific which have constitutional, historical and social connections to the United States: the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau.
- 4 The PIF is central to New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific and our efforts to shape our immediate strategic environment. A strong and unified Forum serves to underpin the voice and agency of our region and its ability to navigate the plethora of 21st century challenges. ^{s6(a)}
s6(a)
- 5 It is in New Zealand's interest to help engender a united Pacific; part of how we can do that is to ensure New Zealand is actively engaged with all Pacific Island countries, whether in Polynesia, Melanesia, or Micronesia. This is part of the context behind the aim of visiting all Forum member countries in 2024 (by the end of this trip we will have visited 14 – with New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Kiribati left).
- 6 The FMM is a key stepping stone towards building a robust agenda for the Forum Leaders' Meeting, which the Prime Minister will attend later in August. It is also a critical opportunity to work alongside Pacific counterparts to identify priorities and issues requiring decisions from Leaders. Attendance would signal New Zealand's continued commitment to the PIF and provide opportunities to further strengthen our relationships, particularly through informal conversations in the margins.

7 Travel to the North Pacific would build on the momentum of the FMM and emphasise New Zealand's commitment to all countries in the Pacific in 2024. Engagements with political leaders in RMI, FSM, and Palau would strengthen our Micronesian relationships and provide an opportunity to exchange perspectives with each country on key regional issues to deepen our understanding of their priorities. ^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

8 The visit coincides with the 30th anniversary of New Zealand's diplomatic relations with Palau and of Palau's independence. I intend to take this opportunity to celebrate alongside Palau counterparts and build on this shared history together.

Outline of proposed visit

9 I intend to undertake the following key engagements:

9.1 Fiji:

- PIF FMM formal programme and agenda;
- Bilateral meetings with PIF Leaders and Foreign Ministers.

9.2 RMI:

- Bilateral meeting with President Hilda Heine and Minister-in-Assistant¹, Hon Bremity Lakjohn;
- Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Kalani Kaneko and Cabinet members;
- Meeting with Members of Nitijela (Parliament).

9.3 FSM:

- Bilateral meeting with President Wesley Simina and Vice President, Hon Aren Palik;
- Secretary of Foreign Affairs², Hon Lorin Robert and select Cabinet Members;
- Meeting with FSM Congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9.4 Palau:

- Bilateral meeting with Vice-President of Palau, J Uduch Sengebau Senior;
- Meeting with Hon Minister of State, Gustav Aitaro, and select Cabinet Members.

10 The programme will also include engagements relevant to New Zealand's development projects in-country.

¹ The Minister-in-Assistant position is the equivalent of the Deputy Prime Minister.

² The Secretary position is the equivalent of a New Zealand Cabinet Minister.

Ministerial Party

- 11 This paper proposes that a cross-party delegation travel together, consistent with previous travel this year throughout the Pacific, which has the aim of demonstrating New Zealand's seriousness of purpose in the region and of building broad knowledge of our Pacific diplomatic and development work through our Parliament. The delegation would include:
- 11.1 Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC), Tim van de Molen;
 - 11.2 Chair of the Labour Pacific Caucus, Hon Jenny Salesa; and
 - 11.3 FADTC Member Teanau Tuiono of the Green Party.
- 12 The Senior Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary are proposed to join the delegation. Travel costs for the delegation (i.e. four MPs and two Ministerial staffers) would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 13 This paper proposes that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry. In addition, I would invite members of the New Zealand media to accompany me on the visit. Accompanying media would cover their own costs.
- 14 Spouses of MPs have been invited to attend so that they can take part in the hospitality offered to the delegation by host governments. This will not have financial implications because the delegation will be transported on an NZDF aircraft and spouses will be staying in hotel rooms with the MPs.
- 15 The delegation would depart for Fiji on Thursday 8 August via NZDF Boeing 757. We would then travel to RMI, FSM, and Palau (in that order), returning to New Zealand on Friday 16 August via the same asset.

Travel Costs

- 16 The estimated cost for the seven-person delegation (i.e. myself, three accompanying MPs and two Ministerial staffers) is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
RNZAF flights to Nadi, Fiji	-
Fiji	
Airfares – domestic (Nadi to Suva)	\$1,350
Accommodation (6 people for 3 nights)	\$9,000
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (6 people for 3 days)	\$1,800
<i>Fiji total</i>	\$12,150
RMI	

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Accommodation (6 people for 1 night)	\$1,710
Hospitality / Representation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch with the President - 30 people plus venue costs; and• Lunch with the Foreign Minister - 30 people plus venue costs. Cost to be split with Partner Government (25/75) and remaining New Zealand side costs split with MFAT (50/50)	\$1,476
Gifts, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President;• Minister in Assistant; and• Foreign Minister at \$300 per gift + presentation costs	\$1,130
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications (2 days - 6 people)	\$2,784
<i>RMI total</i>	<i>\$7,100</i>
FSM	
Accommodation (7 people for 2 nights)	\$2,760
Hospitality / Representation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch with the Foreign Minister - 30 people plus venue costs; and• Official reception – 30 people plus venue costs. Cost to be split with Partner Government (25/75) and remaining New Zealand side costs split with MFAT (50/50)	\$2,706
Gifts, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President;• Vice President; and• Foreign Secretary at \$300 per gift• Speaker at \$150 per gift + presentation costs	\$1,290
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications (1 days - 6 pax)	\$1,884
<i>FSM total</i>	<i>\$8,640</i>
Palau	
Accommodation (6 people for 1 night)	\$5,430
Hospitality / Representation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch with the Foreign Minister - 30 people plus venue costs;• Official reception - 30 people plus venue costs;• Breakfast with Presidential Candidate; and• Boat Tour Cost split with Partner Government (25/75) and remaining New Zealand side costs split with MFAT (50/50)	\$4,517
Gifts, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vice-President;	\$830

ITEM	COST (NZD)
• Foreign Minister at \$300 per gift + presentation costs	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications (2 days - 7 people)	\$2,784
Ground transport	\$400
Palau total	\$13,961
Subtotal	\$41,851
Contingency 5% (rounded)	\$2,093
Overall travel total	\$43,944

Acting Ministers

- 17 If travel is approved, Hon Judith Collins would cover my foreign affairs portfolio and Hon Andrew Bayly would cover my racing portfolio in my absence.

Proactive release

- 18 This Cabinet paper would 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

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 8 August to 16 August 2024 to travel to Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau to attend the Pacific Island Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting and undertake bilateral visits;
 - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by three Members of Parliament: Tim van de Molen; Hon Jenny Salesa; and Teanau Tuiono; and two members of staff.
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$43,944 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 note that I would be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 note that I would be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs would be met by them personally;
 - 1.6 agree that in my absence:

- 1.6.1 Hon Judith Collins would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs;
and
- 1.6.2 Hon Andrew Bayly would act as Minister of Racing;
- 1.7 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs