

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 3/07/2024

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 – Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2024</i></b>	CAB-24-MIN-0174
<b><i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters visit to Türkiye – April 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.

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- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis, and,
- 9(2)(ba)(i): to protect the supply of confidential information by another party.



# 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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### Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - April 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 20 May 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0174 on his travel, from 22 to 28 April 2024, to Gallipoli and Istanbul, Türkiye, to participate in Gallipoli commemorations and undertake bilateral engagements.

Diana Hawker  
for 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 visit to Türkiye – April 2024

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that Cabinet note this report on his travel to Türkiye from 22 April – 28 April 2024 to participate in Gallipoli commemorations, undertake bilateral calls in Istanbul, and support New Zealand businesses operating in the Turkish market.

#### Report

- 1 This three-day visit was the first to Türkiye by a New Zealand Foreign Minister since 2019 and was well received by our Turkish hosts. The purpose of the visit was threefold:
  - Represent the Coalition Government at Anzac Day commemorations on the Gallipoli peninsula;
  - Undertake bilateral calls on both the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; and
  - Support New Zealand businesses operating in the Turkish market.
- 2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs represented the Government at Gallipoli alongside his Australian Deputy Prime Minister counterpart Hon Richard Marles. The Minister delivered commemorative addresses at the Dawn Service and New Zealand's Chunuk Bair service. With close to 2000 attendees and over one million viewing the ABC livestream of the Dawn Service this was the most well-attended commemoration since the centenary in 2015.
- 3 With the Turkish Government providing significant resources to support Gallipoli commemorations, including approximately 1,600 law enforcement officers and 100 medical staff, the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs provided several opportunities to express New Zealand's gratitude for Türkiye's ongoing generosity. That the Turkish side continues to show such goodwill and support to the event despite the resource burden is a positive sign of the lasting connection between our countries.
- 4 In the sidelines of the day's commemorations, the Minister held useful discussions with both Deputy Prime Minister Marles and US Ambassador to Türkiye (and former Senator) Jeff Flake.

5 In Istanbul, the Minister engaged with the highest levels of the Turkish system, including President Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Fidan, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

6 Key bilateral outcomes and matters discussed with President Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Fidan included:

- The signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation of behalf of NEMA with its Turkish counterpart AFAD;
- The two foreign ministers reiterating shared “political will to advance trade, education, and other areas”;
- The two foreign ministers agreeing for New Zealand to host a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) this year, the first in over a decade;
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs sharing with Minister Fidan his assessment of the geostrategic situation in the Indo-Pacific, and climate change threats in the Pacific;
- Türkiye expressing gratitude for New Zealand’s support and solidarity in the aftermath of the February 2023 earthquakes, <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>  
in referring to the Christchurch terror attack, stating a desire to combat Islamophobia.

7 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

8 Other regional crises were discussed, including Türkiye’s role in the now concluded Russia-Ukraine grain deal, and Türkiye’s ongoing support for global food security. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

9 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

The business-focused programme included site visits which showcased New Zealand seismic resilience and marine technology in the niche high-tech and innovative sectors. Since the earthquake in 2023, the Turkish government had introduced new regulations requiring base isolators be installed in buildings over a certain height. There

s9(2)(ba)(i)

we observed seismic base isolators from New Zealand company Robinson Seismic being installed. We also toured one of the two-hundred Turkish Coast Guard vessels set to be equipped with iconic New Zealand's company Hamilton Jet's water-jet propulsion technology.

- 10 Visibility was raised of our shared exposure to natural hazards, and relevant know-how in the New Zealand private sector in managing such risks. During a NZTE-facilitated breakfast with New Zealand business representatives, the Minister sought suggestions on ways the Government could better support New Zealand businesses operating in the Turkish market. The Minister was also briefed on the nature of opportunities for New Zealand businesses, with representatives noting their focus on business-to-business opportunities, Türkiye's skilled workforce, and its proximity to lucrative third markets.
- 11 The upcoming Joint Economic Commission this year, which is likely to involve a large Turkish business delegation, will be a chance to explore ways to further grow our trade and economic relationship.
- 12 In addition to these substantive outcomes, the Minister's visit raised New Zealand's profile in Türkiye through wide media coverage, including through a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Fidan which was covered by a number of major Turkish media outlets. The Minister's visit also resulted in Turkish media coverage of Robinson Seismic's base isolator technology, with the company's representative interviewed at length.

#### **Proactive Release**

- 13 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.

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs