

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 31/01/2025

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 - December 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0467
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 3-5 December 2024</i>	

Some part 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 - December 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 25 November 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 3 to 5 December 2024, to travel to New Caledonia for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$12,012 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 costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 3-5 December 2024

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to New Caledonia from Tuesday 3 December to Thursday 5 December 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 undertake a bilateral visit to New Caledonia, following the visit in May 2024, which was cancelled due to the civil unrest. Travel to the New Caledonia will:
 - 3.1 Demonstrate New Zealand's enduring commitment – at a difficult time – to strengthening our relationships in New Caledonia.
 - 3.2 Reinforce New Zealand's continued commitment to partnering with France in the Indo-Pacific in support of our shared interests in a stable and prosperous Pacific Islands region.
 - 3.3 Embed the principles of the foreign policy reset by continuing to emphasise New Zealand's commitment to a strong and united Pacific region, including through our support for regional agencies, such as the Pacific Community.

4 s6(a)

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6.2 s6(a)

Outline of proposed visit

7 The visit would cover the following key engagements:

- 7.1 Bilateral meeting with French High Commissioner, Louis Le Franc.
- 7.2 Bilateral meeting with the President of the Government of New Caledonia, Louis Mapou, including to sign the renewed Joint Cooperation Plan and engage on options for support.
- 7.3 Engagement with customary leaders at the Customary Senate.
- 7.4 Engagement with other elected officials of New Caledonia’s Congress and representatives of the French State.

8 s6(a)

9 s6(a) Although New Zealand does not provide International Development Cooperation funding to New Caledonia as a high-income economy, we provide modest funding through our Consulate Fund and short-term training scholarships and will announce a modest package of support, including the expansion of New Zealand’s tertiary scholarships scheme.

Ministerial Party

- 10 The Specialist Ministerial Adviser is proposed to join the delegation. Travel costs for the delegation (i.e. Minister and one Ministerial Office staffer) would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 11 This paper proposes that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives, and that their costs be covered by the Ministry.
- 12 The delegation would depart Auckland (Whenuapai) for Nouméa on Tuesday 3 December via Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Boeing 757 and return to Auckland (Whenuapai) on Thursday 5 December via RNZAF C-130H.

Travel Costs

13 The estimated cost for the delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
New Caledonia	
RNZAF flights	-
Accommodation (2 people for 2 nights)	\$2,400

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Interpreter For all meetings, s6(a)	\$4,000
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications (2 people for 2 days)	\$1,000
Hospitality / Representation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement with civil society stakeholders (costs split 50/50 with MFAT).	\$2,000
Ground transport (1x van, 1 x van and trailer, 2 x cars – costs split 50/50 with MFAT)	\$1,500
Gifts	\$540
Contingency 5% (rounded)	\$572
Overall travel total	\$12,012

Acting Ministers

- 14 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio and Hon Shane Jones will cover the racing portfolio in my absence.

Proactive release

- 15 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 3 to 5 December 2024 to travel to New Caledonia to undertake a bilateral visit;
 - 1.2 agree that the Specialist Ministerial Adviser accompany the travel;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$12,012 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 note that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would accompany and have travel costs met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs; and
 - 1.5.2 Hon Shane Jones would act as Minister of Racing;

1.6 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