

Proactive Release

Date: 4 September 2019

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

Title of papers:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Pacific Mission (Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) 4-8 June 2019

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Pacific Mission: 4-8 June 2019

Title of minutes:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

(CAB-19-MIN-0244 and CAB-19-MIN-0364 refer)



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

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 27 May 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 4 to 8 June 2019, to travel to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for the annual Pacific Mission;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by:
 - 2.1 two members of staff from his office, one of whose travel will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - 2.2 Hon Aupito William Sio and one member of staff from his office;
 - 2.3 Parliamentary Under Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau MP and one member of staff from his office;
 - 2.4 a delegation of cross-party Members of Parliament, business people, Pasifika and community leaders, officials and media;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$32,700 for travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel), with the cost being split as follows:
 - 3.1 Rt Hon Winston Peters \$17,100;
 - 3.2 Hon Aupito William Sio \$8,100;
 - 3.3 Fletcher Tabuteau MP \$7,500;
- 4 **noted** that the Ministerial party and delegation will travel to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on a RNZAF Boeing 757;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;

5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;

5.3 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;

6 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Aupito William Sio:

6.1 Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for Pacific Peoples from 4 to 7 June 2019;

6.2 Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Pacific Peoples on 8 June 2019.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon William Aupito William Sio
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PACIFIC MISSION (SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU) 4 – 8 JUNE 2019

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu between 4 – 8 June for the annual Pacific Mission. This letter also covers Minister Aupito William Sio and Under Secretary Tabuteau, who will accompany me as part of a delegation of approximately 70 people. The Prime Minister's approval in principle has been granted.

Pacific Mission

2 This will be the first Pacific Mission to be solely Melanesian-focused since 2015. The Mission will provide an opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the sub-region.

3 The New Zealand delegation will include the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Under Secretary Tabuteau, seven other Members of Parliament (3 from the Labour Party, 3 for the National Party, and 1 from the Green Party), business people, Pasifika and community leaders, officials and media.

4 The delegation will depart Whenuapai on 4 June, on board an RNZAF Boeing 757, travelling to the Solomon Islands (4th – 6th) and Vanuatu (6th to the 8th).

5 Over the course of the Mission, the parliamentarian component of the delegation will meet with senior political leaders from the two respective countries, visit New Zealand development projects and engage with local community members. Parallel business and community visit programmes (for New Zealand delegation members) will also be run.

Mission Objectives

- Reinforce New Zealand's bilateral ties with the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu at political, business and community levels;
- Build cross-party understanding of the importance of engaging with the Pacific, including Melanesia;
- Increase the awareness of New Zealand communities of the diplomatic and development work that New Zealand carries out in the Pacific;
- View first-hand the impact on the ground of New Zealand development projects.

Travel

6 We propose to depart New Zealand at 1120 on 4 June 2019 and return to New Zealand at 1430 on Saturday 8 June 2019. I would miss the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 4 June.

Ministerial Party

7 I propose that I be joined by Minister Sio and Under Secretary Tabuteau, who would form the ministerial party of the broader delegation. I will be accompanied by my chief press secretary and a foreign affairs private secretary (whose costs will be paid separately by MFAT), while Minister Sio and Under Secretary Tabuteau will each be accompanied by one staff member.

Acting Ministers

8 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio, between 1120 on Tuesday 4 June and 1430 on Saturday 8 June 2019.

9 Under Secretary Tabuteau's Foreign Affairs and Disarmament responsibilities would be covered by Hon Parker and his Regional Economic Development responsibilities would be covered by Hon Shane Jones.

10 If Minister Sio's travel is approved, Hon Carmel Sepuloni would act in his Pacific Peoples portfolio, between Tuesday 4 June and Friday 7 June 2019. Hon Kris Faafoi would then act on Saturday 8 June 2019 until 1430.

Estimated Costs

11 The estimated costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party (split by individual office) to be covered by a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel:

Minister Peters and One Staff¹

Airfares (domestic NZ only)	\$1,200
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Hospitality and gifts:	\$7,400
Meals and incidentals	\$2,000
Contingency	\$2,500
Total	\$17,100

Minister Aupito Sio and One Staff

Airfares (domestic NZ only)	\$800
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Hospitality and gifts:	\$1,000
Meals and incidentals	\$1,300
Contingency	\$1,000
Total	\$8,100

Under Secretary Tabuteau and One Staff

Airfares (domestic NZ only)	\$1,200
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Meals and incidentals	\$1,300
Contingency	\$1,000

¹ Minister Peters will also be accompanied by a foreign affairs private secretary whose costs will be met separately by MFAT.

Total

\$7,500

12 Expenditure of up to \$32,700 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel, with individual travel charge codes issued to each of the above offices (based on subtotals provided).

Proactive Release

13 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 4 to 8 June 2019;
- b) **approve** travel by Minister Aupito Sio and Under Secretary Tabuteau to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 4 to 8 June 2019;
- c) **note** that Minister Aupito Sio, Under Secretary Tabuteau and I will be accompanied by one staff member each from our respective offices;
- d) **approve** expenditure of up to \$32,700 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel, with the cost split between the offices of Rt Hon Peters, Hon Sio and Under-Secretary Tabuteau accordingly;
- e) **agree** that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio, between Tuesday 4 June and Saturday 8 June 2019;

- f) **agree** that Hon David Parker cover Under Secretary Tabuteau's Foreign Affairs and Disarmament responsibilities and that Hon Shane Jones cover his Regional Economic Development responsibilities, from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 June 2019;
- g) **agree** that Hon Carmel Sepuloni act in Minister Aupito Sio's Pacific Peoples portfolio, between Tuesday 4 June and Friday 7 June 2019, with Hon Kris Faafoi then acting on Saturday 8 June 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Cabinet

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 29 July 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-19-SUB-0364 on his travel, from 4 to 8 June 2019, to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for the annual Pacific Mission.

Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: PACIFIC MISSION: 4 – 8 JUNE 2019

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on the Pacific Mission to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in early June. Although submitted under my name, this report also covers Minister Aupito William Sio who accompanied as part of a delegation of 75 people.

Report

2 I was accompanied on the Pacific Mission by Minister for Pacific Peoples Aupito William Sio, Under-Secretary for Ethnic Communities Michael Wood, and parliamentarians Poto Williams, Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki, Marama Davidson, Todd McClay, Agnes Loheni, Priyanca Radhakrishnan and Harete Hipango. Also travelling on the Mission was a broad range of business and Pasifika representatives from New Zealand with important links into Melanesia and the wider Pacific. The mission included senior officials and media.

3 The Mission had four primary objectives, linked to New Zealand's interests in the region: supporting stability through robust political-level relationships; seeking maximum impact from our development investments; growing our trade and economic relationships with Solomon islands and Vanuatu; and strengthening Pacific regionalism through identifying collective solutions in areas such as trade, fisheries, climate change, and security.

4 New Zealand's development cooperation is significant in Melanesia, home to our largest bilateral development programmes. Delegates were exposed to the importance of ongoing investment in Melanesia, particularly after having witnessed the pressing social, economic, environmental, and demographic challenges affecting the region including the booming youth population and lack of economic opportunities.

5 Atmospherics were warm and collegial and Solomon Islands and Vanuatu governments clearly wanted to pull out all the stops to ensure the New Zealand delegation felt welcome in Melanesia. A large number of Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Members of Parliament were present at formal events to help mark the occasion.

Solomon Islands

6 In the Solomon Islands, the ministerial delegation met with Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele. The Solomon Islands Foreign Minister and I signed the New Zealand-Solomon Islands Statement of Partnership, underscoring the relationship between the two countries on issues of inclusive development, economic growth, peace and security, and resilience.

7 The entire delegation participated in two evening functions which provided important opportunities to engage with Solomon Islands political, private sector and development counterparts. The delegation visited Honiara's Multipurpose Hall and engaged with members of Honiara's large urban youth population. A highlight for some of the wider delegation members was attending a breakfast with Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Young Enterprise Council, which emphasised the impressive calibre of Solomon Islands youth and business leaders, and provided valuable exchanges between New Zealand and Solomon Island enterprises.

8 The ministerial delegation also had a seriously good visit to the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), including a meeting with FFA Director-General Tupou-Rosen and her team.

Vanuatu

9 The centre piece of the high level political engagement was a joint Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Charlot Salwai. This was a free flowing meeting which brought together the full New Zealand Ministerial delegation and key Vanuatu Cabinet Ministers. This meeting allowed us to reinforce New Zealand's Pacific credentials and demonstrate that we are of the Pacific and linked through culture and history, as well as geography. The discussion covered New Zealand's support for political reform in Vanuatu, the possible introduction of income tax in Vanuatu, regional issues such as the Bougainville referendum and climate change, and labour mobility.

10 In terms of New Zealand's development relationship with Vanuatu a major outcome from the visit was general agreement on a way forward for the South Paray wharf project.

11 New Zealand's trade and economic relationship was showcased through a Business to Business lunch with the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the New Zealand business community based in Vanuatu at K2 cafe. Members of the wider delegation were able to visit Wan Smolbag and see first-hand the difference that art, theatre, dance, and training can make in the lives of young people. Others were able to get a taste of Vanuatu's tourism offering and the work New Zealand is partnering in to promote Vanuatu as a vibrant and exciting tourist destination.

12 The delegation took part in an event at Mele School where new computers and books were handed over by the High Commission. The delegation was able see first-hand the difference the Recognised Seasonal Employer programme is making to the lives of individuals and communities.

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Recommendation

14 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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