

Proactive Release

09/03/2023

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: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-23-MIN-0002
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahua India 6-11 February</i>	

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 international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;



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: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 25 January 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand from 6 to 11 February 2023, to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$67,562 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that the Indian Government will meet the accommodation costs of the ministerial party while in India;
- 5 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 6 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 6.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 6.2 Hon Kieran McAnulty act as Minister of Local Government.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to India 6-11 February, inclusive.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Executive Summary

- 3 The visit will be at the invitation of my Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, made during his visit to Aotearoa New Zealand in October.
- 4 India is a priority relationship for Aotearoa New Zealand. MFAT's *India-New Zealand 2025: Investing in the Relationship* strategy identified political engagement as an essential tool to strengthen our relationship with India. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) My visit will also progress trade and economic, education, security, cultural, and indigenous engagement goals in our bilateral relationship.
- 5 My specific objectives for the visit are to:
 - Provide an opportunity to engage with India as a strategic partner in the region, on issues that have direct impact on Aotearoa New Zealand's geostrategic interests such as security and climate change. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
 - Global economic headwinds, and the need to continue trade diversification have further underscored the need to invest in the India relationship to support our trade recovery strategy. My visit will provide the political momentum for officials to continue to work on a range of innovative initiatives to grow bilateral trade and investment that were discussed during Minister O'Connor's visit in September. I will include a visit to Mumbai, the centre of Indian commerce, to promote New Zealand trade.
 - Strengthen India's understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's value proposition in the Pacific. India remains interested in strengthening its relations with Pacific Island countries and has expressed a keen interest in engaging with Aotearoa New Zealand on this. This visit will be an opportunity to further discuss India's engagement in the Pacific, including through the Pacific Island Forum.

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- Increase in-person, direct engagement with India that will have a strong domestic resonance, as our significant people-to-people links with India continue to grow at pace. Aotearoa New Zealand's Indian diaspora now accounts for five percent of the population, one of the highest proportions of Indian diaspora in the world. The diaspora is increasingly prominent in all spheres of Aotearoa New Zealand life and tends to maintain close links back to India, s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- Further cement my constructive working relationship with Minister Jaishankar, building on the bilateral engagement we had in Aotearoa New Zealand in October. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- Provide opportunities to develop deeper relationships in the area of engagement with India's large indigenous population building on Minister Whaitiri's visit to New Delhi in September.

Outline of Proposed Visit

- 6 The programme will include a cross-section of bilateral meetings, community contact and New Zealand business promotion and support.
- 7 My visit will begin in New Delhi where I will have bilateral meetings with my counterpart External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and with the Minister of Tribal Affairs.
- 8 In New Delhi I will take part in a roundtable of thought leaders and academics to discuss the foreign policy outlook and priorities for India and Aotearoa New Zealand. I will also meet with a range of community, culture and business group leaders.
- 9 I will attend a networking event hosted at the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi for 200 guests to showcase the close bilateral relationship and demonstrate New Zealand's deep understanding of the Pacific region s6(a)
s6(a) Key attendees will include key Indian Cabinet Ministers. High-level officials from the Indian government, think tanks, international organisations, and the Pacific Missions based in New Delhi will also be invited.
- 10 I will also visit Mumbai for a one day programme where I will meet with the Chief Minister Maharashtra State, host a group of high-profile women leaders to discuss issues for women in India, and have tourism, education and business promotional engagements to highlight further opportunities between New Zealand and India.
- 11 I will travel to India departing New Zealand on Monday 6 February and arrive in New Delhi on 7 February. I will return to New Zealand departing Mumbai on 10 February, and arrive back to New Zealand on 11 February.

Ministerial Party

- 12 I propose to be accompanied by one staff member paid for by ministerial services. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me, with costs met by their department.

Estimated Costs

- 13 The estimated cost for this travel is:

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Flights	\$27,000
Accommodation (Indian government to cover)	\$0
Per diems	\$1,000
Gifts	\$1,000
Representation and events	\$29,400
<p>New Delhi: \$19,305</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x lunch with Indian opinion leaders (2 x \$1280): \$2650 - Dinner function for 200 attendees: \$14,770 - Panel discussion event for 50 attendees: \$1475 - Catering for meeting with State Tribal Affairs Minister and delegation: \$500 <p>Mumbai: \$10,095</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lunch with women leaders: \$1280 - Room hire for events tourism and education events: \$2950 - Reception for business event: \$5865 <p><small>* With the exception of the Mumbai NZTE dinner event, where the costs are being split equally with NZTE, MFAT is contributing the same amount to all events and the total cost will be split equally between my office and MFAT.</small></p>	
Pre-departure testing	\$350
Subtotal	\$58750
Contingency 15%	\$8812
TOTAL	\$67,562

Acting Ministers

- 14 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister for Foreign Affairs and that Hon Kieran McAnulty cover my Local Government portfolio.
- 15 My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Māori Development will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Willie Jackson.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 6 to 11 February, inclusive.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by a member of my staff paid for by ministerial resources.
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$67,562 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 5 Agree that Hon David Parker and Hon Kieran McAnulty will be Acting Ministers in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs