

Proactive Release

Date: 12 September 2022

The following Cabinet paper[s] and related Cabinet minute[s] have been proactively released by the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-21-MIN-0292

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 1 August 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand, from 15 to 19 August 2022, to travel to s6(a) Niue, and Tonga for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$24,300 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by s9(2)(g)(i) officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Kieran McAnulty act as Minister for Local Government;
 - 5.3 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Local Government for matters relating to Three Waters Reform;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to ^{s6(a)} Niue and Tonga. The dates for the proposed tour are 15-19 August 2022, inclusive.

Executive Summary

- 2 If approved, travel to these countries will have the common objective of meaningfully engaging kanohi ki te kanohi with Pacific counterparts in their home context. Aotearoa New Zealand has a special constitutional relationship with ^{s6(a)} Niue. Tonga is a key Polynesian partner. A combined visit to these three partners, coming soon after the Prime Minister's visit to Samoa for the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, will underscore Aotearoa New Zealand's significant and enduring partnerships in Polynesia, and the priority we attach to reconnecting after a period of virtual engagements and disrupted prior visit plans.
- 3 The visit is well-timed: ^{s6(a)} Niue's Premier has recently concluded his first official visit to New Zealand and will welcome the first inwards visit by a Minister in five years; and the visit will come shortly after Tonga's announcement to progressively reopen its borders from early August.
- 4 This visit will also provide an opportunity to underscore the significant COVID-19 and economic support Aotearoa New Zealand has provided during these difficult times, and our commitment to continuing to support the economic resilience of our partners in the region. Climate resilience will also be a theme throughout the trip. I am planning to deliver a speech in the Pacific on the Pacific Resilience Approach, and to launch the International Climate Finance Strategy in Tonga.
- 5 Specific objectives for each country include:
 - 5.1 ^{s6(a)}
^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

5.2 Niue

- 5.2.1 Reinforce the strength and special character of the Aotearoa New Zealand - Niue relationship, and take the opportunity to highlight that Aotearoa New Zealand prioritises its relationship with Niue following the Premier's visit.
- 5.2.2 Reinforce that Aotearoa New Zealand continues to stand with Niue, as we have throughout the pandemic, as it weathers its first COVID-19 outbreak and economic recovery.
- 5.2.3 Demonstrate a commitment to work with Niue on promoting its language and culture by announcing a regional initiative to support the preservation of Vagahau Niue and other Pacific languages.

5.3 Tonga

- 5.3.1 Reconnect kanohi ki te kanohi to demonstrate the value Aotearoa New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship with Tonga, and take the opportunity to engage and share perspectives on shared bilateral and key regional issues.
- 5.3.2 Further consolidate the relationship gains on the back of the significant support we have provided to Tonga in managing the impacts from the Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami, and the COVID-19 outbreak.

Outline of Proposed Visit

- 6 If travel is approved, the programme will include a series of bilateral meetings with the three governments, community events and visits to development activities supported by New Zealand. For example:

s6(a)

- 6.2 In **Niue** I will attend a special session of the Fale Fono and meet with Cabinet. I intend to visit the high school, and discuss New Zealand's

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support for language revitalisation, and the hospital to acknowledge the work by Niue's medical teams in responding to the pandemic.

6.3 As well as meeting with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Cabinet, in **Tonga** I intend to also meet with the King. In addition, my programme will see me deliver a keynote speech on Pacific resilience and New Zealand's climate finance commitments, launch a new bilateral health workforce development activity and meet with Tonga's humanitarian disaster responders.

7 An NZDF asset will be required to facilitate the visit, given commercial linkages into and across the region remain challenging. I will depart Auckland on Monday 15 August, travelling to ^{s6(a)} On Wednesday 17 August I will travel to Niue, overnighing there, before travelling to Tonga on Thursday 18 August. I will return from Nuku'alofa on Friday 19 August.

Ministerial Party

8 I propose to be accompanied by a member of my office staff. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will accompany me. I also intend to invite members of the press on the tour.

Estimated Costs

9 The estimated cost for this travel is:

Flights (contingency in case of breakdown)	\$12,000
Accommodation	\$4,000
COVID-19 testing	\$200
Transport (Niue)	\$100
Technology hire (Niue)	\$1,000
Gifts	\$2,500
Kalavata shirts	\$200
Travel Insurance	\$300
Subtotal	\$20,300
Contingency 20%	\$4,060
TOTAL	\$24,300

Acting Ministers

10 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, with Hon Grant Robertson covering my responsibilities for Three Waters reform.

11 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 15 August to 19 August, inclusive, to travel to^{s6(a)} Niue and Tonga.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by a member of my staff.
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by ^{s9(2)(g)(i)} and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$24,300 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 McNulty will be Acting Ministers in my absence, with Hon Grant Robertson covering my responsibilities for Three Waters reform.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs