

Proactive Release

Date: 27 April 2023

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

Title	Reference
Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	CAB-23-MIN-0079
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	

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 Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act 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 redaction codes:

- 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: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 13 March 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 15 to 17 March 2023, to travel to Fiji to undertake a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$13,292 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 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji from 15 March – 17 March 2023 to undertake a bilateral visit.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Reasons for Travel

3 This visit will be Aotearoa New Zealand's first bilateral ministerial travel to Fiji since its General Election in late 2022, and my first kanohi ki te kanohi engagement with key figures from Fiji's new coalition government.

4 s6(a)
New Zealand has long-established, deep links with Fiji through government-to-government relations, regional security, trade, and deep community links through the Fijian communities who have made New Zealand their home. In addition, Fiji is home to the region's key institutions, including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat. s6(a)

5 s6(a)

6 New Zealand is in and of the Pacific. s6(a)

7 s6(a)

8 It is against this background that I consider it is timely for me to develop my relationship with Fiji's new Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sitiveni Rabuka, to build relationship ballast and trust with other members of the new government, grow the bilateral relationship, express New Zealand's priorities and aspirations for Fiji and the Pacific, and to discuss the issues facing our region.

9 I will use the opportunity to:

- Build a relationship with the new Fiji Government leadership who were elected in late December 2022, s6(a)
- Reinforce Aotearoa New Zealand's position as a natural partner for Fiji and the broader region, and demonstrate solidarity on important issues such as climate change and regional security.
- s6(a)
- s6(a) as well as thank Prime Minister Rabuka personally for his key role in encouraging Kiribati to return to the Forum.
- Highlight the important role the New Zealand International Development Cooperation programme plays supporting Fiji partners to deliver long-term social and economic resilience for the Fijian people.
- Express thanks for the deployment of Fiji military and emergency personnel to support the Cyclone Gabrielle response.

10 s6(a)

Outline of Proposed Visit

11 I plan to undertake high-level bilateral engagements with the Government of Fiji, including Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka. I will also meet with Fiji's three Deputy Prime Ministers, Manoa Kamikamica (People's Alliance Party), Biman Prasad (National Federation Party) and Viliame Gavoka (SODELPA). s6(a)

and work to establish key areas of mutual priority.

12 I also plan to meet with female parliamentarians and s6(a) making a call on the Leader of the Opposition.

13 I will also engage with Aotearoa New Zealand's Development Programme, which may involve a visit to another part of the Fiji islands.

Travel

14 If travel is approved, I will depart New Zealand for Fiji by commercial means on Wednesday 15 March and will return to New Zealand on Friday 17 March 2023.

Ministerial Party

15 Should Cabinet approve my travel, one of my private secretaries will accompany me paid for by ministerial services, along with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Estimated Costs

16 The indicative costs of this travel are approximately \$13,292. This will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.

17 An estimated breakdown of the costs are as follows:

Flights	\$5,940
Accommodation	\$3,168
Per Diems	\$450
Transport	\$1,000
Gifts	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$11,558
Contingency 15%	\$ 1734
TOTAL	\$ 13,292

Acting Ministers

18 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

19 My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Māori Development will revert to the Primary Minister, Hon Willie Jackson.

Recommendations

20 I recommend that Cabinet:

- Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 15 March to 17 March to travel to Fiji.
- Agree that I will be accompanied by one private secretary.
- Note that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

- Approve the expenditure of \$13,292 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- Agree that in my absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs