

Proactive Release

Date: 21 February 2024

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

| Title | Reference |
|--|-----------------|
| Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters | CAB-23-MIN-0484 |
| Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Friday 15 December - Saturday 16 December 2023 | |

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: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 11 December 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 15 to 16 December 2023 to travel to Suva, Fiji for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$2,760 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:
 - 4.1 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be a charge to Vote: Foreign Affairs;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met by their outlets;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly 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 Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - Friday 15 December-
Saturday 16 December 2023**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Suva, Fiji from Friday 15 December to Saturday 16 December to undertake a bilateral visit.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. I will not miss any Cabinet or Cabinet Committee meetings as a result of this travel.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 If approved, this will be my first travel as Foreign Minister in this Government. I propose to travel to Fiji due to the significance of that relationship to New Zealand, the influence Fiji has across the Pacific and the signal this sends about the importance New Zealand places on our home region.
- 4 I will take the opportunity to reinforce New Zealand's support for Fiji's democratic trajectory and work to establish key areas of mutual priority.
- 5 A priority for the visit is to further develop my relationship with Fiji's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Sitiveni Rabuka, and to discuss the issues facing our region.
- 6 Fiji is influential within the Pacific and home to the region's key institutions, including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). I will be seeking a call on the PIF Secretary General Henry Puna during the visit.
- 7 ^{s6(a)}
- 8 I will use the opportunity to:
 - Further New Zealand's relationship with the Rabuka Government, which has consistently indicated a preference to working closely with New Zealand.
 - Reinforce New Zealand as a natural partner for Fiji and demonstrate solidarity on important issues, such as regional security and economic development.

- Discuss geopolitical developments in the Indo-Pacific region and reflect on recent developments within the PIF, following the PIF Leaders' Meeting.
- Highlight the important role the New Zealand International Development Cooperation programme plays supporting Fiji to deliver on long-term social and economic resilience goals.

Outline of Proposed visit

- 9 During my visit to Suva, I will meet with:
- The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Sitiveni Rabuka;
 - The Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Henry Puna; and
 - Fiji's Deputy Prime Ministers and other senior Ministers.
- 10 I will seek a call on Fiji's Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition. If time permits, I will also visit a New Zealand Development Project.
- 11 If travel is approved, I will depart for Fiji around midday on Friday 15 December via NZDF Boeing 757; and return to New Zealand around 4pm on Saturday 16 December via the same asset.

Ministerial Party

- 12 I propose to be accompanied by my Chief of Staff and my Senior Specialist Ministerial Advisor from my office. Travel costs of this official delegation will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.
- 13 In addition, I propose to invite the following members of the New Zealand media to accompany me on the visit. Media will cover their own costs. The proposed composition of the media delegation, if approved, will be:
- Barbara Dreaver and camera operator - TVNZ
 - William Terite and camera operator - Newshub
 - Te Okiwa McLean and camera operator - Te Karere
 - Lydia Lewis - RNZ
 - Ben McKay - AAP
 - Marc Daalder - Newsroom
 - Atutahi-Potaka-Dewes and Candice Ama - Pacific Media Network
 - Aaron Ryan - Maori Television
 - Jack Nyhof - SKY News
 - Pattrick Smellie - BusinessDesk.

Travel Costs

14 List the estimated costs of the travel:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Airfares: | \$0 |
| Accommodation: | \$1,600 |
| Meals: | \$300 |
| Gifts: | \$500 |
| Contingency (15%) | \$360 |
| Total: | \$2,760 |

Acting Ministers

15 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio, and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio in my absence.

Proactive release

16 This Cabinet paper will 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

17 I recommend that Cabinet:

17.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from Friday 15 December to Saturday 16 December to travel to Suva, Fiji for a bilateral visit;

17.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$2,760 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;

17.3 agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office;

17.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be a charge to Vote: Foreign Affairs;

17.5 note that I will be accompanied by a delegation of media, whose costs will be met by their outlets;

17.6 agree that in my absence:

17.6.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio from Friday 15 December to Saturday 16 December;

17.6.2 and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio from Friday 15 December to Saturday 16 December;

17.7 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the
Minister of Foreign Affairs