

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 27 October 2025

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: Rh Hon Winston Peters – September 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0314
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 21 to 28 September 2025</i>	

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Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government and,
- 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: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 15 September 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 21 to 28 September 2025, to travel to New York, United States of America to lead the New Zealand delegation at the High-Level Week segment of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$114,056 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 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Racing;
 - 5.2 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Rail;
- 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 - 21 to 28 September 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to undertake official travel to New York, United States, from Sunday 21 to Sunday 28 September 2025, to lead New Zealand's delegation to the High-Level Week segment of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of travel is to lead New Zealand's delegation to the High-Level Week segment of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80). The High-Level Week is the apex fixture of the annual multilateral meeting calendar, taking place from Monday 22 to Monday 29 September, with approximately 150 Heads of State and Government, and numerous other foreign ministers, in attendance.
- 4 As the 80th anniversary of its founding, 2025 is a significant year for the UN. This year's High-Level Week will likely see the culmination of the first stage of a wide-ranging reform process led by the Secretary-General (UN80) during a period of significant strain on the UN system. s9(2)(g)(i)
- 5 New Zealand has a strong vested interest in a multilateral system that is able to respond to pressing and immediate crises (such as conflicts around the world), as well as long-term issues. Despite its flaws and challenges, the UN remains key to global collective efforts, particularly when it comes to international peace and security, human rights, humanitarian crises, sustainable development, and other transboundary challenges.
- 6 It is therefore important for New Zealand to take opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to the UN system and the global rules and norms it helps to develop and protect. The Minister's attendance at this year's High-Level Week is an indication of support for the multilateral system. It also provides an opportunity to advance New Zealand's foreign policy interests through engagement with political and other leaders, consistent with the Coalition Government's foreign policy priorities
- 7 The objectives of the visit are to:

- 7.1 Demonstrate our continued commitment to the UN Charter, international rules, and an effective multilateral system;
- 7.2 Reinforce our support for progress on issues important to the Pacific region;
- 7.3 Secure and reaffirm important relationships with world leaders, key partnerships, and alliances, including by engaging in bilateral and regional meetings; and,
- 7.4. Deliver a formal statement of New Zealand's position on a range of pressing international issues, including Israel/Palestine.

Outline of proposed visit

- 8 During this visit the we intend to undertake the following engagements:
 - Deliver New Zealand's national statement at the General Debate;
 - Represent New Zealand at a high-level meeting focused on the two-state solution and recognition of Palestine;
 - Represent New Zealand at other key thematic high-level meetings, including on areas of importance to security in the Indo-Pacific, such as s6(a) /maritime security;
 - Undertake bilateral and minilateral engagement with ministerial counterparts and other international officials, including engagement with the Pacific Island Forum and Indo-Pacific Four groupings;
 - Engage with members and associates of the Trump Administration; and
 - Undertake engagements with New Zealand-based and international media outlets to convey New Zealand's foreign policy positions and priorities.
- 9 The visit to New York may also afford the opportunity to meet with Secretary of State Rubio to engage on common interests in support of New Zealand's bilateral relationship with the United States.

Ministerial Party

- 10 This paper proposes that my Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary join the delegation. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 11 The paper also proposes that my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives. The wider New Zealand delegation to UNGA80 High-Level Week will also include staff from the New Zealand Permanent Mission in New York. The Ministry would cover their costs.

Estimated Costs

- 12 The following is an expected breakdown of costs, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

Item	Cost
Flights	NZD 39,311.52
Accommodation	NZD 59,913
Transportation	NZD 2,200
Hospitality	NZD 3,000
Gifts	N/A
Meals	NZD 4,200
Subtotal	NZD 108,624.52
Contingency 5%	NZD 5,431.23
Total	NZD 114,055.75

Acting Ministers

- 13 Hon Shane Jones will cover the Minister's foreign affairs and racing portfolios, and Hon Chris Bishop will cover the rail portfolio.

Proactive release

- 14 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

- 1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** the Minister's absence from New Zealand, from 21-28 September 2025 to travel to the United States to lead New Zealand's delegation to the High-Level Week segment of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly;
 - 1.2 **agree** that the Specialist Ministerial Adviser and the Senior Press Secretary join the delegation;
 - 1.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of NZD 114,055.75 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 **note** that the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would also join the delegation, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 **agree** that in my absence:

- 1.5.1 Hon Shane Jones would act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Racing;
- 1.5.2 Hon Chris Bishop would act as Minister for Rail;
- 1.6 **note** that Cabinet and Cabinet Committees will meet during my absence on Monday 29 September.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs