

Proactive Release

Date: On or before 28 August 2025

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision	CAB-25-MIN-0262
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 7-14 June 2025	CAB-25-SUB-0262

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

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - June 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 4 August 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under submission CAB-25-SUB-0262 on his travel, from 7 to 14 June 2025, to:

- 1 Nice, France to attend the United Nations Ocean Conference and the Pacific-France Summit, and undertake bilateral visits;
- 2 Rome, Italy to undertake bilateral visits;
- 3 Jakarta, Indonesia to undertake bilateral visits.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 7-14 June 2025

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on recent travel to Nice, France; Rome, Italy; and Jakarta, Indonesia over 7-14 June 2025.

Report

- 1 The purpose of this travel was to attend the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) and the Sixth Pacific-France Summit in Nice, France; followed by bilateral visits to Italy and Indonesia.

Nice – 3rd United Nations Oceans Conference

- 2 The priorities for UNOC3 were to underscore New Zealand's leadership on ocean governance; demonstrate support for the Pacific in an area of strategic, environmental and economic significance; and advocate for sustainable fisheries management.
- 3 We achieved these aims through our attendance at UNOC3's opening plenary session and in our address to the Small Island Developing States Ministerial Roundtable on Ocean Action, where we highlighted New Zealand's US\$10 million contribution to the Global Fund for Coral Reefs. Our participation also reinforced New Zealand's support for the multilateral system in the current strategic context.
- 4 New Zealand's amplified Pacific messages on ocean and sustainable fisheries issues and highlighted our cooperation with Pacific partners to enhance fisheries management and ocean science. We upheld the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the framework for enduring ocean governance and encouraged ratification of the Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. We underscored New Zealand's sustainable fisheries priorities, including support for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Recommendation on eliminating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and the World Trade Organization Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, as well as initiatives to mitigate seabird bycatch and restore seabird breeding site islands.

Nice – Sixth France-Pacific Summit

- 5 Our attendance at the Sixth France-Pacific Summit, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron was a chance for New Zealand to champion Pacific regionalism on the global stage and encourage ongoing French commitment to Pacific priorities. To this end, we delivered an intervention at the Summit that

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highlighted the unique threats to regional security and stability and acknowledged France's constructive engagement. This statement also underscored the importance of supporting regional institutions s9(2)(g)(i)

A Joint Declaration was concluded at the end of the Summit.

- 6 Exemplifying our commitment to the Pacific and encouragement of French engagement in the region, we joined President Macron and Vanuatu Minister of Climate Change Adaptation and Energy Ralph Regenvanu for the announcement of France's intention to co-finance the New Zealand-led "RESSET" project. This provides solar energy to two outlying islands in Vanuatu in place of diesel and was a priority initiative for Vanuatu.
- 7 We undertook valuable bilateral engagement across UNOC3 and the Pacific Summit. We held formal meetings with Ministerial counterparts in France and the Indo-Pacific, including the Chilean Foreign Minister Alberto van Klaveren; French Minister for Overseas Territories Manuel Valls; President of Palau Surangel Whipps Jr; Prime Minister of Niue Dalton Tagelagi; Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son; Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan; and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.
- 8 Meetings with French Ministerial counterparts allowed us to reaffirm the value of the New Zealand-France partnership in turbulent geopolitical times and our shared strategic interests in the Pacific and globally. During these meetings we engaged with the French Government on New Caledonia and reaffirmed our shared interest in regional integration.

Rome

- 9 Our visit to Rome to celebrate the 75th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations between Italy and New Zealand enables us to gain useful insights into European Union dynamics and the trans-Atlantic relationship. Our relationship with Italy is valuable: it is a G7 country, member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and a key partner for us in Antarctica. Our visit was the first by a New Zealand Foreign Minister since we last visited Rome in 2007.
- 10 Positive engagements with key political counterparts at a lunch to celebrate the diplomatic anniversary showed an increasing interest in New Zealand particularly as a like-minded partner in the Indo-Pacific. In our bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Tajani, we discussed key geopolitical issues of shared interest. The visit included an engagement with the Director General of the Multinational Force and Observers, headquartered in Rome and an organisation that New Zealand supports with funding, and a roundtable with Italian companies that have significant and growing interests in New Zealand.

Jakarta

- 11 Our visit to Jakarta was the first time the Government has been able to engage face to face with the new administration of President Prabowo Subianto following his inauguration. Our visit demonstrated a commitment to high-level

political engagement with Indonesia as a priority relationship under the Foreign Policy Reset by attending the New Zealand-Indonesia Joint Ministerial Commission, thereby honouring our commitment to hold these talks annually under our Comprehensive Partnership with Indonesia.

- 12 We registered at the political level New Zealand's value proposition to the new administration – s6(a)
- 13 During our meeting with Foreign Minister Sugiono, we expressed mutual interest in further high-level engagement, s6(a)
- 14 The visit enabled two significant arrangements to be concluded that have been under negotiation for several years: an enhanced Education Cooperation Arrangement to facilitate student and research exchanges; and the Cooperation Arrangement on Halal Standards, which will strengthen trade access to Indonesia and create new opportunities for New Zealand's red meat and dairy exporters.

Proactive release

- 15 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

- 16 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon. Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs