

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11/08/2025

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Investment

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – July 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0226
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – July 2025</i>	



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 Nicola Grigg – July 2025

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 30 June 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nicola Grigg from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 17 to 18 July 2025 to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the biennial Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers Meeting and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$12,018 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 Louise Upston act as Minister for Women;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[In Confidence]~~

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – July 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Suva, Fiji, from 17 July to 18 July to attend the biennial Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Trade Minister Meeting (FTMM) in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Investment. If my travel is approved, I will also undertake bilateral meetings.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of my travel to Suva, Fiji, is to represent New Zealand at the FTMM in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Investment. This meeting is a key regional event, bringing together Pacific Trade Ministers to shape the future of trade and economic integration. Ministerial representation and building relationships face to face is essential to protect and promote New Zealand's interests and value in the region.
- 4 My attendance at this meeting will reinforce New Zealand's continued commitment to regional cooperation, for which the PIF is at the centre of our approach, and our support for regional trade architecture and Pacific resilience. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to advance Pacific trade priorities such as increased market access (supported via numerous IDC initiatives) and our advocacy for Pacific voices in preserving global trade rules.
- 5 The visit is also an opportunity to highlight the importance of New Zealand's trade, economic, bilateral and development relationships in the region, including through meeting with PIF Ministerial counterparts. Officials are exploring the potential to attend the Fiji-New Zealand Business Council (FNZBC) Thinkers breakfast event, and if FNZBC could use the event to launch its 'reaching \$2 billion trade strategy'. Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, SMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica has indicated he would attend such an event, and officials are exploring the possibility of a meeting in the margins. Both the FNZBC event and a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Kamikamica would be timely opportunities to highlight the value of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus and to reiterate New Zealand's messaging on Fiji joining the Agreement.
- 6 Should scheduling permit further meetings, I will also seek a call on Fiji's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, in my capacity as Minister for Women.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied by one Advisor. I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand High Commission in Fiji, whose costs will be covered by their department.

Travel Costs

- 8 The following is a breakdown of estimated travel costs to be covered by the Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel:

Airfares:	\$8,000.00
Accommodation:	\$1,745.00
Transport:	\$500.00
Other expenses:	\$600.00
Hospitality and Gifts:	\$600.00
Contingency (5%)	\$573.00
Total:	\$12,018.00

Acting Ministers

- 9 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women; the Associate Agriculture and State for Trade and Investment portfolios will revert to Hon Todd McClay; and the Associate ACC portfolio will revert to Hon Scott Simpson.

Proactive release

- 10 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate, as set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 11 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 12 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, for 17 July to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the FTMM and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 13 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 14 approve the estimated expenditure of \$12,018.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 15 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand High Commission in Fiji, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 16 agree that in my absence:
- 17 Hon Louise Upston will act as Minister for Women;
- 18 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister of State for Trade and Investment