

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 9 June 2025

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

| Title | Reference: |
|--|------------------------|
| Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - May 2025 | CAB-25-MIN-0134 |
| Proposed Overseas Travel Rt Hon Peters 1-2 May 2025 | |

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA 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 - May 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 28 April 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 1 to 2 May 2025, to travel to Nouméa, New Caledonia to undertake a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two staff members from his office, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$6,563 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 **noted** that the delegation will travel on the RNZAF Boeing 757;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 6.2 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Racing;
 - 6.3 Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
- 7 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 1-2 May 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to New Caledonia from Thursday 1 May to Friday 2 May 2025 inclusive.
- 2 This paper remains subject to in-principle approval from the Prime Minister's Office but has been submitted now due to the short timeframes involved.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 This travel forms part of New Zealand's prioritisation of regular political-level visits to maintain relationships and influence in the Pacific. We have been invited to visit New Caledonia at this time by the French Minister for Overseas Territories, Manuel Valls, who will be in-country for negotiations on New Caledonia's institutional future.
- 4 Travel to New Caledonia at this time would be a chance to engage with the new leadership of the Government of New Caledonia and the third-most senior minister serving under French President Emmanuel Macron. This would serve to demonstrate and reinforce New Zealand's commitment to engaging constructively with both the New Caledonian people and the French Government to support New Caledonia's pathway forward, following last year's civil unrest. New Caledonia is geographically New Zealand's closest neighbour.
- 5 The security situation in New Caledonia has significantly improved and has largely returned to normal, helped by the presence of additional security forces.
s6(a)
. Officials propose using a New Zealand Defence Force asset to transport the small delegation to and from New Caledonia
s6(a)

Outline of proposed visit

- 6 It is intended that we undertake the following key engagements:
 - 6.1 Bilateral meeting with the Minister for Overseas Territories, Manuel Valls, and other representatives of the French State, accompanied by the French High Commissioner and French Regional Ambassador;
 - 6.2 Bilateral meeting with the new President of the Government of New Caledonia, Alcide Ponga, appointed in January 2025; and

6.3 s6(a)

- 6.4 Engagement with the Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific's largest provider of technical assistance, and a significant recipient of New Zealand ODA funding.

Ministerial Party

- 7 It is proposed that the Specialist Ministerial Adviser join the delegation. Travel costs (i.e. Minister and one Ministerial staffer) would be a charge to vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 This paper proposes that the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives. Those costs would be covered by the Ministry.
- 9 The delegation would depart Auckland (Whenuapai) for Nouméa on Thursday 1 May via a RNZAF Boeing 757 and return to Auckland (Whenuapai) on Friday 2 May via the same aircraft.

Travel Costs

- 10 The estimated cost for the delegation is:

| ITEM | COST (NZD) |
|--|----------------|
| New Caledonia | |
| RNZAF flights | - |
| Accommodation (2 people for 1 night) | \$1,000 |
| Interpreter For all meetings, except SPC. | \$2,500 |
| Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications (2 people for 2 days) | \$1,000 |
| Ground transport | \$750 |
| Gifts | \$1,000 |
| Contingency 5% (rounded) | \$312.50 |
| Overall travel total | \$6,563 |

Acting Ministers

- 11 If travel is approved, Hon McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio, Hon Mark Patterson will cover the racing portfolio, and Hon Simeon Brown will cover the rail portfolio in the Minister's absence. This is subject to final confirmation.

Proactive release

- 12 This Cabinet paper would 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 This paper recommends that Cabinet:
 - 1.1 authorise the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs from New Zealand, from 1 to 2 May 2025 to travel to New Caledonia to undertake a bilateral visit;
 - 1.2 agree that the Specialist Minister Adviser accompany the Minister as part of the delegation;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$6,563 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 would accompany alongside officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in our absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - 1.5.2 Hon Mark Patterson would act as Minister for Racing; and
 - 1.5.3 Hon Simeon Brown would act as Minister for Rail;
 - 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs