

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 16 July 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: Rt Hon Winston Peters - June 2025, dated 3 June 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0181
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 7-14 June 2025</i>	

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;
- 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 - June 2025

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 3 June 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 7 to 14 June 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Nice, France to attend the United Nations Ocean Conference and the Pacific-France Summit, and undertake bilateral visits;
 - 1.2 Rome, Italy to undertake bilateral visits;
 - 1.3 Indonesia to undertake bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT);
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$69,295 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 MFAT, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 7 to 8 June 2025;
 - 5.2 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 9 to 14 June 2025;
 - 5.3 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Racing;
 - 5.4 Hon Simeon Brown 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 – 7-14 June 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to France, Italy, and Indonesia from Saturday 7 June to Saturday 14 June 2025 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of the travel is to enable attendance at the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) and the Sixth Pacific-France Summit in Nice, France; followed by bilateral visits to Italy and Indonesia.
- 4 New Zealand's priorities at UNOC3 are supporting the Pacific region, including showcasing the significant investments that New Zealand has made in the region's ocean and fisheries; upholding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the framework for effective ocean governance; and sustainable fisheries management. We will have the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with counterparts in the margins of UNOC3.
- 5 Our attendance at the Pacific-France Summit will be an opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to Pacific regionalism, ^{s6(a)} and to reaffirm our shared interest with France and Pacific partners in regional prosperity and security.
- 6 Our bilateral engagement with French Ministerial counterparts will reaffirm the value of the New Zealand-France partnership in turbulent geopolitical times and our shared strategic interests in the Pacific and globally and continue constructive engagement with the French Government on New Caledonia and reaffirm our shared interest in the territory's regional integration.
- 7 A visit to Rome will offer the opportunity to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and New Zealand as well as gain useful insights into European Union dynamics and the trans-Atlantic relationship. Italy is also a G7 country, NATO member, and key partner on Antarctica (Italy is hosting the Antarctic Treaty Meeting later in June). As the last Foreign Minister to visit Italy (in 2007), we are conscious Rome is also the headquarters to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Food Programme, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, all important organisations in meeting New Zealand's agricultural policy and humanitarian objectives.
- 8 ^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

This visit will demonstrate our commitment to high-level political engagement with Indonesia as a priority relationship under the Foreign Policy Reset, including through attending the New Zealand-Indonesia Joint Ministerial Commission, honouring our commitment to hold this Commission annually under our Comprehensive Partnership with Indonesia.

Outline of proposed visit

9 We intend to undertake the following key engagements:

9.1 France:

- Attend the United Nations Ocean Conference;
- Attend the Pacific-France Summit, which will be hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron;
- Hold bilateral meetings with Pacific leaders and other Ministers in the margins of these meetings;
- Hold bilateral meetings with French Foreign Minister Barrot and Minister for French Overseas Territories Valls.

9.2 Italy:

- meet with Italian Foreign Minister Tajani, and engagement with other senior Italian political leaders, highlighting the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations; and
- s6(a)

9.3 Indonesia:

- Hold Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono, honouring our commitment under the Comprehensive Partnership with Indonesia to hold this annually;
- Meet with senior contacts, who have close ties to President Prabowo;

s9(2)(g)(i)

Ministerial Party

10 We propose that the Specialist Ministerial Adviser joins the delegation. Travel costs for the delegation would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

11 This paper proposes that the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry.

- 12 The delegation would depart for France on Saturday 7 June on a commercial service. We would then travel to Italy and Indonesia, returning to New Zealand on Saturday 14 June via commercial services.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated cost for the delegation of two (i.e. myself, Specialist Ministerial Adviser) is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights	44,267
France	
Accommodation <i>2 people for 2 nights</i>	3,645
Transportation (Nice)	7,200
Gift (President Macron)	480
Hospitality (Nice)	1,905
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (2 people for 3 days)	518
France total	13,748
Italy	
Accommodation (2 people for 1 night)	1,390
Transportation	2,300
Gift (Foreign Minister Tajani)	480
Hospitality	1,430
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	320
Italy total	5,920
Indonesia	
Accommodation (2 people for 2 nights)	1,260
Gifts, for: Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sugiono, and for Hashim Djojohadikusumo, brother of President Prabowo	500
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (2 days meals for 2 people and VIP facilitation costs)	300
Indonesia total	2,060
Subtotal	65,995
Contingency 5% (rounded)	3,300
Overall travel total	69,295

Acting Ministers

- 14 If travel is approved, the Minister's foreign affairs portfolio will be covered by the Hon Casey Costello from 7 – 9 June and the Hon Todd McClay 9 – 14 June; the Minister's rail portfolio by the Hon Simeon Brown, and the Minister's racing portfolio by the Hon Mark Patterson.

Proactive release

- 15 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 our absence from New Zealand, from 7 June to 14 June 2025 to travel to France, Italy, and Indonesia to attend the United Nations Ocean Conference, France-Pacific Summit, and undertake bilateral visits;
 - 1.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$69,295 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.3 note that the delegation would include the Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser;
 - 1.4 note that this delegation would be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Casey Costello and Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs (from 7-9 June and 9-14 June 2025 respectively); and
 - 1.5.2 Hon Mark Patterson would act as Minister of Racing;
 - 1.5.3 Hon Simeon Brown would act as Minister of Rail.
 - 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs