

Proactive Release

Date: 30 July 2025

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

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters	CAB-25-MIN-0212
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston 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 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 and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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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.

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

Portfolio

Foreign Affairs

On 30 June 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-25-SUB-0212 on his travel, from 1 to 2 May 2025, to Noumea, New Caledonia to undertake bilateral engagements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

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

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on recent travel to Noumea, New Caledonia over 1-2 May 2025.

Report

1 This travel – our second visit to New Caledonia in five months – was evidence of New Zealand's prioritisation of regular political-level visits to maintain relationships s6(a) in the Pacific. We had been invited to visit New Caledonia at this time by the French Minister for Overseas Territories, Manuel Valls, who was in-country for negotiations on New Caledonia's institutional future.

2 The visit was therefore a well-timed chance to engage with the new leadership of the Government of New Caledonia (President Alcide Ponga) and the third-most senior minister serving under French President Emmanuel Macron. This served 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. This is especially important given New Caledonia is geographically New Zealand's closest neighbour.

3 s6(b)(i)

In all his engagements, we reiterated New Zealand's desire to provide constructive support to New Caledonia and France s6(a)

4 The visit also enabled us to explore New Zealand's proposal for a delegation of Caledonian entrepreneurs to visit New Zealand to learn about Māori economic development. s6(a) the study tour was endorsed by both Minister Valls and President Ponga and the visit will now take place this week (30 June-4 July 2025).

5 s6(a)

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- 6 We also visited the headquarters of the Pacific Community (SPC) – an organisation New Zealand supports with significant funding - for a discussion with the Director-General which focused on current strategic challenges, s6(a)
- 7 Growing foreign influence in the region was another key topic of conversation with New Caledonia and France, s6(a)

Proactive release

- 8 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

- 9 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon. Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs