

Proactive Release

Date: 15 October 2025

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision	CAB-25-MIN-0303
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Independent State of Papua New Guinea, 15-16 September 2025	FPS-25-MIN-0016

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;
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 8 September 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 15 to 16 September 2025, to travel to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea to attend the 50th Anniversary of Independence;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by his Senior Press Secretary;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$2,835 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:
 - 4.1 the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 5 **noted** that the Ministerial party and delegation will travel to and from Papua New Guinea on New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 6.2 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Racing;
 - 6.3 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Rail;
- 7 **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Independent State of Papua New Guinea, 15-16 September 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to undertake official travel to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea), from Monday 15 September to Tuesday 16 September 2025 inclusive.
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of travel is to take forward New Zealand's relationship with Papua New Guinea by attending the celebration of its 50th Anniversary of Independence.
- 4 The objectives of the visit are to:
 - 4.1 Demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to our partnership with Papua New Guinea by attending the celebrations of its 50th Anniversary of Independence, following the formal participation of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel and assets;
 - 4.2 s6(a)
 - 4.3 Lift the awareness of New Zealand's long-standing support as one of only eight countries to be present at Papua New Guinea's independence.

Outline of proposed visit

- 5 This visit provides the chance to highlight the importance of the New Zealand–Papua New Guinea relationship by attending the 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations in September.
- 6 This visit would complement the Prime Minister's travel to Papua New Guinea in August, which marked our 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. This engagement will also build on the March 2025 leader-level engagement in Wellington, at which New Zealand and Papua New Guinea signed an updated Statement of Partnership, committing to increasing the breadth and depth of our cooperation.

- 7 New Zealand's development programme in Papua New Guinea is one of our largest (NZ\$135 million allocated for 2024 - 2027) and invests in priority areas including agriculture, economic development, scholarships, peace-building and good governance.
- 8 Our defence and security relationship is also significant, including regular exchanges, training, and capacity building. New Zealand's role in Bougainville and its future political status remains valued by both the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainville Administration.
- 9 Attendance at Papua New Guinea 50th anniversary celebratory events will demonstrate the value New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship. This political representation will complement the NZDF personnel and asset contributions to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force during the celebrations taking place in the week before our visit. NZDF will be represented by Chief of Army. With the contribution of air assets, planned to be a C-130J, a Boeing 757, and two NH-90 helicopters, the NZDF will provide strategic airlift, and will participate in a static display and flypast. The Army Band will participate in live performances through a military tattoo, and NZDF will provide staff to support the Australian Defence Force aboard HMAS CHOULES and specialist staff to augment the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and Australian Defence Force headquarters.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

- 13 The proposed visit presents an important chance to reiterate New Zealand's value-proposition as a likeminded partner which consistently delivers on Papua New Guinea's priorities.^{s6(a)}
- 14 More broadly, this increased tempo of engagement facilitates and demonstrates New Zealand's increasing engagement with Melanesia – as also

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demonstrated by the recent inwards visit of Solomon Islands Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele.

15 We intend to undertake the following key engagements in Papua New Guinea:

15.1 Formal 50th Anniversary programme and agenda (15-16 September);

15.2 Bilateral meetings, including with a United States Deputy Secretary of State.

Ministerial Party

16 This paper proposes that the Senior Press Secretary join the delegation. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

17 This paper also proposes that the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel in support of the visit objectives. The Ministry would cover their costs.

18 It is proposed that New Zealand media are invited to accompany the visit, at their own cost.

19 The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) would provide transportation to Papua New Guinea using the B-757.

Estimated Travel Costs

20 The following is an expected breakdown of costs, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
RNZAF flights to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	-
Accommodation (2 people for 2 nights)	\$1,500
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (2 people for 1 day)	\$800
Hospitality and events	-
Gifts	\$400
Contingency 5% (rounded)	\$135
Overall travel total	\$2,835

Acting Ministers

21 If travel is approved, Minister Jones will cover the foreign affairs portfolio; Minister Patterson will cover the racing portfolio; and Minister Bishop will cover the rail portfolio.

Proactive release

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

Recommendations

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, from 15 September to 16 September 2025 (inclusive) to travel to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea;
 - 1.2 **agree** that the Senior Press Secretary join the delegation;
 - 1.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$2,835 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 and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would also join the delegation, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 **note** that a media delegation has been invited to join the delegation, whose costs would be met by them personally;
 - 1.6 **agree** that in my absence:
 - 1.6.1 Minister Jones would act as Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 1.6.2 Minister Patterson would act as Minister for Racing; and
 - 1.6.3 Minister Bishop would act as Minister for Rail.
 - 1.7 note that the House is sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs