

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 23 January 2026

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 – November 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0408
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 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: Rt Hon Winston Peters - November 2025

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Rail

On 17 November 2025, Cabinet:

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Rail
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 2025

- 1 The Minister seeks Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Viet Nam, China, and Thailand from Monday 24 November to Saturday 29 November 2025 (inclusive), as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Rail.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The Minister's travel to **Viet Nam** will serve three inter-linked objectives:
 - 3.1 Further advance the elevation of our bilateral relationship with Viet Nam through the signing of the Plan of Action for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was agreed during Prime Minister Luxon's visit to Viet Nam in February.
 - 3.2 Celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and Viet Nam; and
 - 3.3 Connect and exchange perspectives with newly appointed Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung on key strategic challenges in our region.
- 4 The Minister's travel to **China** in his capacity as Minister of Rail will provide the opportunity to:
 - 4.1 Participate in the official event to commemorate the commercial procurement of New Zealand's two new Interisland ferries, and
 - 4.2 Engage with Guangdong political leadership to enhance connections between New Zealand and Southern China.
- 5 The Minister's travel to **Thailand** will serve three objectives:
 - 5.1 Sign the New Zealand - Thailand Strategic Partnership Plan of Action, which lays the foundation for our two countries to elevate relations to Strategic Partners in 2026, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. This follows the roadmap adopted in 2024 by Minister Peters and his then counterpart, Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa.
 - 5.2 Exchange perspectives with Thailand's newly appointed Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeowm on key strategic challenges in our region, and

5.3 Announce New Zealand's increase in annual tertiary Manaaki Scholarships allocated to Thai tertiary students, further strengthening our people-to-people and educational ties.

Outline of proposed visit

6 We intend to undertake the following key engagements:

6.1 Viet Nam

- Meet with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trung to sign the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of Action
- Minister Peters may have the opportunity to undertake a courtesy call on Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh

6.2 China

- Participate in an event at Guangzhou Shipping International (GSI) alongside Ferry Holdings Limited (FHL) to commemorate the signing of the commercial contact between the two companies.
- Undertake bilateral engagement with Guangdong political leadership to reinforce and enhance connections between New Zealand and Southern China.

6.3 Thailand

- Meet with Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak to sign the Strategic Partnership Plan of Action, and
- Meet with Prime Minister Anutin. However, if this cannot be secured, Minister Peters will meet with Mekong Institute representatives instead.

Ministerial Party

7 The Minister would be accompanied by Specialist Ministerial Adviser Jon Johansson and Senior Press Secretary John Tulloch. Travel costs for the Minister, Specialist Ministerial Advisor, and Senior Press Secretary will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

8 The Minister would also be accompanied by two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: senior official Deputy Chief Executive Policy Taha Macpherson and seconded Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor Michael Appleton. Travel costs for Ministry officials will be covered by the Ministry.

9 The delegation would use commercial flights, departing for Viet Nam on Monday 24 November. Then travel onto China and Thailand (in that order), returning to New Zealand on Saturday 29 November.

Travel Costs

10 The estimated cost for the Minister, Specialist Ministerial Adviser, and Senior Press Secretary is:

Item	NZD
Flights	
Rt Hon Winston Peters - NZD11,161.27 Dr Jon Johansson - NZD10,540.27 John Tulloch - NZD11,323.92	NZD 33,025.46
Ha Noi, Viet Nam	
Accommodation	
3 x rooms NZD450 x 2 nights Accommodation includes breakfast and free access to club lounge and private meeting room	NZD 2700
Transportation	
1 x Ground transport NZD600	NZD 600
Gifts	
Bilateral gifts: 2 x NZD200 Miscellaneous small gifts: NZD50	NZD 450
Other expenses	
Baggage truck for airport transfers: NZD100 x 2 ways Interpreter: NZD1500 x 2 days 2 days per diems 3 pax (NZD56 per day)	NZD 3536
Viet Nam total	NZD 7286
Guangzhou, China	
Accommodation	
3 x Delegation rooms NZD250 x 1 nights Rooms include breakfast and free access to lounge and private meeting room	NZD 750
Transportation	
1 x Ground transport in Guangzhou	NZD 1100
Gifts	
Gifts for counterparts (TBC): NZD150 per gift	NZD150
Other expenses	
2 days per diems for 3 pax (NZD130 per day)	NZD 780
China total	NZD 2780
Bangkok, Thailand	
Accommodation	
Minister + 1 covered under guest of Government provisions 1 x Delegation rooms NZD 360 x 1 nights	NZD 360

Rooms include breakfast and free access to lounge and private meeting room	
Transportation <i>Covered by Thai MFA</i>	0
Hospitality Placeholder Mekong Institute 1 x room hire and catering for 10 pax, max cost NZD 400	NZD 400
Gifts Bilateral gifts: 2 x NZD200	NZD 400
Other expenses 1 days per diems for 3 pax (NZD 71.20 per day)	NZD 213.60
Bangkok total	NZD 1373.60
Sub total	NZD 44,465.06
Contingency 5%	NZD 2224.25
Total	NZD 46,688.31

Acting Ministers

11 If travel is approved, the Minister's Foreign Affairs portfolio will be covered by Hon Todd McCla; the Minister's Rail portfolio will be covered by Hon Shane Jones; and the Minister's Racing portfolio by Hon Simeon Brown.

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 our absence from New Zealand, from 24-29 November 2025 to travel to Viet Nam, China, and Thailand to undertake bilateral visits.
- 1.2 agree that we are accompanied by two members of staff.
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$46,688.31 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 1.4 note that we 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 our absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs

- 1.5.2 Hon Shane Jones would act as Minister for Rail; and
- 1.5.3 Hon Simeon Brown would act as Minister of Racing.

1.6 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Rail