

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 14/09/2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel - Rt Hon Winston Peters - August 2025</i>	
<i>Cabinet – Minute of Decision</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0264

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 and,
- 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 - August 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 4 August 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 13 to 14 August 2025, to travel to Fiji to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting and bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by three members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$1,461 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 be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by their agency;
- 5 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 6 **noted** that the Ministerial party and delegations are expected to travel on a New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 7 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 7.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 7.2 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Racing;
 - 7.3 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Rail;
- 8 **noted** that House leave has been approved.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - August 2025

- 1 We seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji, from 13 August to 14 August 2025 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 We plan to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 14 August in Suva, Fiji.
- 4 The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is central to New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific s6(a) A strong and unified Forum helps our region to navigate our collective challenges.
- 5 For the Forum to fulfil its role as the apex of the region's diplomatic architecture, it must be recognised as such by both Members and external partners. New Zealand has sought to promote this through consistent messaging on 'PIF centrality'.
- 6 s6(a)
New Zealand needs to take concrete steps to invest in the Forum's standing. s9(2)(g)(i)
- 7 The Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting is a key step in building a robust agenda for the Forum Leaders' Meeting, to be held in Solomon Islands in September and attended by Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. Attendance will support New Zealand's continued commitment to the Forum and further strengthen our relationships with Pacific Leaders and Ministers.

Outline of proposed visit

- 8 In Fiji we intend to undertake the following key engagements:
 - The formal PIF Foreign Ministers' programme and agenda;
 - Bilateral meetings with PIF Leaders and Foreign Ministers.

Ministerial Party

- 9 We propose to be accompanied by our Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary, whose costs would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 10 We would also be accompanied by our Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs would be covered by the Ministry.
- 11 In addition, we will invite members of the New Zealand media to accompany the visit at their own cost.
- 12 The delegation intends to depart for Fiji on Wednesday 13 August via NZDF C-130 and return to New Zealand on Friday 14 August via the same asset.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated cost for the three-person delegation (i.e. Minister and two Ministerial staffers) is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
RNZAF flights to Nausori, Fiji	-
Accommodation (3 people for 1 night)	\$949.50
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (3 people for 1 day)	\$411
Subtotal	\$1,360.50
Contingency 5% (rounded)	\$100
Overall travel total	\$1,461

Acting Ministers

- 14 If travel is approved, Minister McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio; Minister Patterson will cover the racing portfolio; and Minister Bishop will cover the rail portfolio in our absence.

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 We recommend that Cabinet:
 - 1.1 authorise our absence from New Zealand, from 13 August to 14 August 2025 to travel to Fiji to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting;

- 1.2 agree that we be accompanied by Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary from our Office;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$1,461 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 also be accompanied by our Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
- 1.5 note that we would be accompanied by a media delegation, who would be responsible for their own costs;
- 1.6 agree that in our absence:
 - 1.6.1 Minister McClay will act as Minister for Foreign Affairs; and
 - 1.6.2 Minister Patterson will act as Minister of Racing;
 - 1.6.3 Minister Bishop will act as Minister of Rail;
- 1.7 note that the House is sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon. Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs