

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 04/08/2025

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute - Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - July 2025</i></b>	CAB-25-Min-0204
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 9 to 12 July 2025</i></b>	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - July 2025

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 23 June 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 9 to 12 July 2025, to travel to Malaysia to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meetings;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$27,943 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 costs would be met by their agency;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 5.2      Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Racing;
  - 5.3      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 – 9 to 12 July 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to Malaysia from Tuesday 9 July to Saturday 12 July 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 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meetings in Malaysia.
- 4 The visit continues New Zealand's focus and resources in our important relationships with ASEAN and with Southeast Asia, a region critical to New Zealand's prosperity and security. New Zealand is an engaged and constructive partner to ASEAN, with an interest in its strength and success. New Zealand has cultivated a reputation based on respect, reliability, and our support for ASEAN's centrality in the region. New Zealand's relationship with ASEAN plays a mutually reinforcing role in our bilateral engagement with individual ASEAN Member States.
- 5 This year marks the Golden Jubilee year of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations. To celebrate this 50th anniversary of relations, New Zealand is seeking to affirm commitment to establishing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN and negotiate a new Joint Vision Statement and Plan of Action 2026-30. Therefore, this year, in particular, is an important opportunity to demonstrate commitment to the regional agenda.
- 6 The visit seeks to ensure New Zealand is positioning itself in the Indo-Pacific in a manner which reflects the importance of the region to our security and prosperity, and which recognises that many of the most critical strategic threats facing New Zealand emanate from this region. Ensuring New Zealand retains an active and credible seat at the regional strategic-discussion table remains fundamental to our national interests.

### Outline of proposed visit

- 7 The visit intends to undertake the following key engagements:
  - Bilaterals with Foreign Minister counterparts;

- ASEAN - New Zealand Ministerial Meeting (known as the Post Ministerial Conference +1 or "PMC+1");
- Gala Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister of Malaysia;
- East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF);
- Possible engagement with Malaysia Manaaki Scholarships Alumni.

### Ministerial Party

- 8 This paper proposed that the delegation include the Specialist Ministerial Advisor. Travel costs for the delegation would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 9 The delegation would be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry.

### Travel costs

- 10 The estimated cost for the delegation (i.e. myself and one Ministerial staffer) is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights	NZD 16,986
<i>AKL – KUL – AKL x 2 people</i>	
Accommodation	NZD 1,000
<i>Kuala Lumpur – Mandarin Oriental NZ\$500/night @ 2 nights x 1 person</i>	
Gifts	NZD 1,500
<i>(gifts for Ministerial counterparts)</i>	
Meals	NZD 800
<i>NZ\$200 @ 2 days x 2 people</i>	
Hospitality/representation costs	NZD 3,000
<i>50% share of cost of hosting Manaaki scholarships alumni in Malaysia</i>	
<b>Overall subtotal</b>	NZD 23,286
<b>Contingency 20%</b>	NZD 4,657
<b>TOTAL</b>	NZD 27,943

## Acting Ministers

- 11 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay would cover the foreign affairs portfolio, Hon Simeon Brown would cover the rail portfolio, and Hon Casey Costello would cover the racing portfolio.

## 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 my absence from New Zealand, from 9 to 12 July to travel to Malaysia to attend meetings with ASEAN Foreign Ministers';
  - 1.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$27,943 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 be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;
  - 1.4 agree that in my absence:
    - 1.4.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs
    - 1.4.2 Hon Simeon Brown would act as Minister for Rail; and
    - 1.4.3 Hon Casey Costello would act as Minister of Racing;
  - 1.5 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs