

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 17/08/2026

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – August 2026	CAB-26-MIN-0222
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 6-7 August 2026	

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.



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 2026

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 6 July 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 6 to 7 August 2026, to travel to Fiji to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting;
- 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 (MFAT);
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$2,148 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 officials from MFAT, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 5 **noted** that a Royal New Zealand Airforce aircraft will be used for this travel;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 6.2 Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
 - 6.3 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Racing.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 6–7 August 2026

1 We seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji, from 6 August to 7 August.

The Prime Minister's office has approved the travel in principle.

Purpose of Travel

2 We plan to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in Suva, Fiji, on 7 August.

3 New Zealand's membership of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is one of our most important. ^{s6(a)}

A strong and unified Forum helps our region to navigate our collective challenges.

4 New Zealand's chairing of the 56th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in 2027 ^{s6(a)}

over the next three years. To advance the Forum's position as the pre-eminent hub for regional decision making, New Zealand needs to continue to invest in the Forum's standing. This includes attending relevant Ministerial meetings, such as this one.

5 The Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting is a key step in building a robust agenda for the Forum Leaders Meeting, which will be held in Palau 30 August – 4 September. Attendance would support New Zealand's continued commitment to the Forum and further strengthen our relationships with Pacific Leaders and Ministers.

Outline of proposed visit

6 We intend to undertake the following key engagements:

6.1 Fiji:

- Formal programme and agenda;
- Bilateral meetings with PIF Foreign Ministers.

Ministerial Party

7 We propose to be accompanied by our Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary. Travel costs for this delegation (i.e. two Ministerial staffers) would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

- 8 We would also be accompanied by our Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry.
- 9 In addition, we would invite members of the New Zealand media to accompany us on the visit. Accompanying media would cover their own costs.
- 10 The delegation would depart for Fiji on Thursday 6 August and travel on a Royal New Zealand Airforce B757. We would return to New Zealand on Friday 7 August via the same asset.

Travel Costs

- 11 The estimated cost for three persons (i.e. us and three Ministerial staffers) is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
RNZAF flights to Nausori, Fiji	(Nil – RNZAF)
<i>C-130J available as back-up</i>	
Accommodation (3 people for 1 night)	NZ\$1,635
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals (3 people for 1 day)	NZ\$411
Subtotal	NZ\$2046
Contingency 5% (rounded)	NZ\$102
Overall travel total	NZ\$2148

Acting Ministers

- 12 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay would cover our foreign affairs portfolio; Hon Casey Costello would cover our racing portfolio; and Hon Simeon Brown would cover the rail portfolio in our absence.

Proactive release

- 13 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 6 August to 7 August to travel to Fiji, to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting;
 - 1.2 agree that we be accompanied by two members of staff;

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$2148 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 my 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, whose costs would be met by them personally;
- 1.6 agree that in our absence:
 - 1.6.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs; and
 - 1.6.2 Hon Casey Costello would act as Minister of Racing;
 - 1.6.3 Hon Simeon Brown would act as Minister for Rail;
- 1.7 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs