

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 30/03/2026

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

Title	Reference
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - January 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0031
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters -18 to 22 January 2026</i>	

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
- 6(b)(ii): to protect the passing of information from an international organisation on a confidential basis.



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – January 2026

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 16 February 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-26-SUB-0031 on his travel, from 18 to 22 January 2026, to the Republic of Kiribati, Palau and Fiji to undertake bilateral visits.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 18 to 22 January 2026

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on travel to the Republic of Kiribati, Palau and Fiji from Sunday 18 January to Thursday 22 January 2026.

Report

- 1 The purpose of the travel was to set the strategic direction for our bilateral relationship with Kiribati; to coordinate with Palau on our successive hosting years of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in 2026 and 2027; and to strengthen our bilateral relationship with Fiji, and discuss a range of issues with PIF Secretary General Baron Waqa in Nadi, Fiji.

Kiribati

- 2 In Kiribati, we successfully reset the bilateral relationship, which included the signing of the New Zealand – Kiribati Statement of Partnership. The Statement was the culmination of months of diplomatic effort and sets out the shared principles, priorities and understandings that will guide cooperation and engagement between our governments over the period 2026-2030.
- 3 We met with the Kiribati Vice President and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr Teaua Toatu, hosted several Cabinet Ministers for a working lunch (Minister of Information, Communications and Transport Alexander Teabo; Minister of Line and Phoenix Islands Development Mikarite Temari; Minister of Education Ruateki Tekaiara; Minister of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs Ruth Cross Kwansing; Minister of Environment, Lands, and Agricultural Development Tokaibure Rabaua; and Minister of Employment and Human Resources Auria Kitina), toured the newly completed Beito Hospital alongside Kiribati Health Minister Bootii Nauan, and attended an official dinner hosted by Vice President Toatu. Across these engagements, we raised the visibility of our development assistance and New Zealand's value as a trusted partner. New Zealand is well positioned to capitalise on this momentum.

Palau

- 4 In Palau, the delegation held a bilateral meeting with President Surangel Whipps Jr. and a range of Cabinet Ministers (Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment Steven Victor; Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce Charles I. Obichang; and Minister of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism and Development Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl), were hosted to a working lunch with Minister of State Aitaro, and attended an official dinner hosted by President Whipps.

- 5 Connecting in person at the start of Palau's Pacific Islands Forum host year enabled us to gauge its key priorities that will inform our own planning for 2027.
s6(a)

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Fiji

- 7 In Fiji, we hosted a working dinner with the newly appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Sakiasi Ditoka, and a range of Ministers (Esrom Immanuel, Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development; Viliame Naupoto, Minister for Immigration; Ioane Naivalurua, Minister for Policing and Communications; and Inosi Kuridrani, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways). This was the Fiji Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade's first international engagement since assuming the portfolio on 19 January.
- 8 The discussion reaffirmed our shared commitment to regional solidarity, peace and security, and the importance of the PIF in the context of global challenges.
- 9 While in Fiji, we also met with the PIF Secretary General Baron Waqa. We exchanged perspectives on the current global and regional challenges, including the 2025 PIF Leaders Communiqué and our desire to not see the PIF bow to external pressure.
s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

Proactive release

- 10 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.

Recommendation

- 11 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs