

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
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – July 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0218
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – July 2026</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 – July 2026

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 6 July 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 20 to 23 July 2026, to travel to the Philippines to undertake bilateral engagements;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$25,429 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 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will 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 Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
 - 5.3 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - July 2026

- 1 We seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to the Philippines from 20 July to 23 July 2026 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of this travel is to enable the signature of a Comprehensive Partnership with our Philippine counterpart, Foreign Secretary Lazaro and attend a suite of meetings, including the ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting (the PMC+1), the East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The objectives of the visit are to:
 - Finalise and publicise an elevated diplomatic status with the Philippines that enables us to work together more closely, and more often, in areas that matter to New Zealanders.
 - Demonstrate New Zealand's value proposition as an engaged, trusted, and reliable partner for the Philippines in a sharpening geopolitical landscape, including by profiling our trade, people-to-people, and development links.
 - Sustain momentum and highlight the early achievements under our new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN, a region critical to New Zealand's prosperity and security.
 - Enhance alignment with the Philippines and ASEAN on global and regional issues to maximise our resilience and advance our shared interests as small, advanced economies.
- 4 The Philippines is a priority country for New Zealand under our Foreign Policy Reset, and the uplift of our relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership will deliver on the Government's commitment to deepen our relations across South East Asia. The visit coincides with the 60th anniversary of New Zealand's diplomatic relations with the Philippines, presenting a significant opportunity to celebrate the progress in our relationship. It will be our second visit to the Philippines this term, reflecting the lift in our relationship.

Outline of the visit

- 5 We intend to undertake the following key engagements:
 - 5.1 Philippines:
 - Bilateral meeting, and Comprehensive Partnership signing ceremony with Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro;
 - Bilateral meeting with Philippines Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro; and
 - A meeting with Philippine Education Secretaries to conclude the New Zealand – Philippines Education Cooperation Arrangement.

5.2 ASEAN Foreign Minister Meetings:

- ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting (the PMC+1);
- East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); and
- Various bilateral meetings and engagements in the margin, with key regional counterparts.

Delegation

6 We propose to be accompanied by our Specialist Ministerial Adviser, Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser Michael Appleton (seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)), and MFAT's Asia and Americas Deputy Secretary, Grahame Morton.

7 This paper proposes that officials from MFAT would travel in support of the visit objectives. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry.

8 The delegation will travel to and from the Philippines on commercial flights.

Travel Costs

9 The estimated costs of the travel are outlined below:

Item	NZ\$
Flights <i>Return flights for two people</i>	\$15,402
Accommodation <i>Two rooms for two people for four nights</i> (NZ 472 per room, per night)	\$3776
Meals and other expenses <i>Per diems (NZ 150 pd pp x 4 days)</i>	\$1200
Transportation <i>Delegation to be transported by Embassy vehicles or provided by Philippines/ASEAN.</i>	\$0
Gifts \$250 x 6 gifts	\$1500
Hospitality Provision for Two working lunches (@\$71.25pp for 8 pax) and one dinner (\$150pp for 8 pax)	\$2340
Pre contingency total	\$24,218
Contingency	\$1,210.90
Total	\$25,429

Acting Ministers

- 10 If travel is approved, our Foreign affairs portfolio will be covered by the Hon Todd McClay; our Rail portfolio by the Hon Simeon Brown; and our Racing portfolio by the Hon Casey Costello.

Proactive release

- 11 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 4 on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 12 We recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **Authorise** our absence from New Zealand from 20 to 23 July 2026 (inclusive) to travel to the Philippines.
 - 1.2 **Approve** the estimated expenditure of \$25,429 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
 - 1.3 **Note** that we will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be meet their own costs.
 - 1.4 **Agree** that in our absence:
 - Hon Todd McClay act as Foreign Affairs Minister;
 - Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
 - Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Racing.
 - 1.5 **Note** that the House is sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs