

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 12 October 2026

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – July 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0283
<i>Report on 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.

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

Portfolio

Foreign Affairs

On 31 August 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-26-SUB-0283 on his travel, from 20 to 23 July 2026, to the Philippines to undertake bilateral engagements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 20 July to 23 July 2026

- 1 This paper recommends Cabinet note this report on travel to the Philippines from 20 July to 23 July 2026 (inclusive).

Report

- 2 The purpose of the travel was to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings and to announce the elevation of New Zealand's relationship with the Philippines to a Comprehensive Partnership. We attended key events including an ASEAN Gala Dinner, the ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting (the PMC+1), the East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- 3 This visit fulfilled our goal to uplift our relationship with the Philippines to a Comprehensive Partnership, delivering on the Government's commitment to deepen our relationship with a priority Southeast Asian country, consistent with our Foreign Policy Reset.
- 4 We met with Philippines Foreign Secretary Lazaro, and Defense Secretary Teodoro. The discussions provided valuable opportunities to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of diplomatic relations with the Philippines, exchange views on the global economic and geopolitical environment, including challenges in the Indo-Pacific, and progress our defence and security objectives.
- 5 During this visit, New Zealand signed two bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Philippines: a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Education, and the Third Amendment to the Geothermal Energy Cooperation Arrangement. In addition, we opened an Education New Zealand event to promote education opportunities in New Zealand.
- 6 New Zealand's engagement in the ASEAN meetings enabled us to highlight New Zealand as a consistent partner that supports ASEAN centrality and the agency of smaller states in the Indo-Pacific.
- 7 In the East Asia Summit, we underscored New Zealand's deep support for the rules-based international order, and its relevance to the swathe of challenges facing the international community.
- 8 In the ASEAN Regional Forum, we encouraged enhanced maritime security including the restoration of free and unimpeded passage through the Strait of Hormuz, the importance of UNCLOS, strengthened non-proliferation and disarmament, and enhancing cooperation to address transnational serious organised crime.

9 We also had bilateral meetings with the following counterparts, enabling discussions on a broad range of issues of mutual interest:

- Brunei Foreign Minister, Prince Abdul Mateen;
- Canada Foreign Affairs Minister, Anita Anand;
- European Union High Representative and Vice President, Kaja Kallas;
- India External Affairs Minister, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar;
- Indonesia Foreign Minister, Sugiono;
- Norway Foreign Affairs Minister, Espen Barth Eide;
- Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar;
- Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister, Justin Tkatchenko;
- Republic of Korea Foreign Minister, Cho Hyun;
- Switzerland State Secretary, Markus Leitner;
- Netherlands Foreign Minister, Tom Berendsen;
- Viet Nam Foreign Minister, Le Hoai Trung.

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.

Recommendations

The Minister for Foreign Affairs recommends that Cabinet:

1 Note this report.

Authorised for lodgement.

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs