

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11 February 2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Climate Change

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025</i></b>	CAB-25-MIN-0380
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025</i></b>	

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
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - November 2025

Portfolio                      Climate Change

On 28 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Simon Watts from New Zealand, from 16 to 22 November 2025, to travel to Belém and São Paulo, Brazil to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) and a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise-hosted event showcasing New Zealand technology companies to the Brazilian market;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff and the Labour Party's Climate Change Spokesperson as part of the Ministerial party;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$61,702 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, the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry for Primary Industries, whose travel expenses will be met by their respective agencies;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister of Local Government;
  - 5.2      Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Energy;
  - 5.3      Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister of Climate Change;
  - 5.4      Hon Scott Simpson act as Minister of Revenue;
- 6        **noted** that leave from the House has been approved.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[In Confidence]~~

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Belém and São Paulo, Brazil from 16 November to 22 November to attend the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) and a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) hosted event showcasing New Zealand Technology companies to the Brazilian market.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 COP30 is the annual meeting that governs the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement. As a Party to these agreements, decisions taken at these meetings have implications for New Zealand. It is expected that New Zealand will participate at Ministerial level.
- 4 COP30 provides an opportunity for New Zealand to engage with partners to ensure our climate change story resonates internationally. It also provides an opportunity to speak openly with New Zealand's likeminded partners about the value of us cooperating to manage our economic transitions.
- 5 This year, I will focus on building relationships and cooperation with the Government's priority partners (including South-East Asia, Pacific, and 5 Nations). COP30 may also provide an opportunity to announce bilateral climate change cooperation arrangements with my counterparts.
- 6 By participating in the multilateral negotiations at COP30, I will continue to signal New Zealand is playing its part in an effective global response to climate change. The majority of the scheduled work for this year's Conference is focused on operationalising the Paris Agreement framework, plus agreeing to a small number of important new outcomes (such as indicators for adaptation action). There will be a high degree of focus on the collective response to Nationally Determined Contributions and limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. s6(a), s9(2)(j)
- 7 COP30 will also be an important opportunity to reinforce New Zealand's support for Australia's bid to host COP31 in partnership with the Pacific in 2026.

- 8 The COP attracts the world's largest gathering of civil society and businesses that work on climate change and the economic transition to low emissions and climate resilience. At COP30, I will support and amplify the participation of New Zealand stakeholders and take the opportunity to engage with New Zealand businesses in attendance.
- 9 I will also headline the New Zealand Technology Showcase in São Paulo during my stopover enroute to Belém. This event, organised by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) to coincide with COP30 in Brazil, will involve a strong lineup of New Zealand Technology companies, showcasing their sustainability solutions to the Brazilian market through interactive digital displays.
- 10 During my participation at COP30 I would undertake the following:
- 10.1 Represent New Zealand at Ministerial-level negotiations on high priority COP30 outcomes;
  - 10.2 Deliver New Zealand's National Statement at COP30's Ministerial segment;
  - 10.3 Support Australian-led efforts to secure Australia-Pacific hosting rights for COP31 in 2026;
  - 10.4 Host a briefing for New Zealand stakeholders attending COP30, and support New Zealand industry priority engagements/side events as appropriate;
  - 10.5 Speak at side events that profile New Zealand and our climate priorities;
  - 10.6 Participate in 'Umbrella Group' (principally Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Norway, and Switzerland) Ministerial strategy and coordination discussions;
  - 10.7 Hold bilateral meetings with Pacific Ministers in attendance, and with Ministerial counterparts from countries with shared climate and economic priorities;

### **Ministerial Party**

- 11 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. The Labour Party's Spokesperson for Climate Change will also join my Ministerial delegation (this has been a standard and enduring practice). Travel costs will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 12 The New Zealand official delegation will include officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Officials' travel expenses will be covered by their respective Ministries.

### **Travel Costs**

13 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$38,000
Accommodation:	\$14,500
Meals	\$1300
Ground transport	\$4464
Gifts	\$500
Contingency (5%)	\$2938

**Total: \$61,702**

### **Acting Ministers**

14 The following Ministers will be acting in my portfolios for the duration of the travel:

14.1 Hon Chris Bishop – Acting Minister of Local Government

14.2 Hon Simeon Brown – Acting Minister for Energy

14.3 Hon Penny Simmonds – Acting Minister of Climate Change

14.4 Hon Scott Simpson – Acting Minister of Revenue

### **Proactive release**

15 This Cabinet paper will 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 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 16 November to 22 November to travel to Belém and São Paulo, Brazil to attend the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) and a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) hosted event, showcasing New Zealand Technology companies to the Brazilian market.

1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff, and the Labour Party's Climate Change Spokesperson travelling as part of the Ministerial party;

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$61,702 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Officials' travel expenses will be covered by their respective Ministries.
- 1.5 agree that in my absence the following Ministers will be acting in my portfolios:
  - 1.5.1 Hon Chris Bishop – Acting Minister of Local Government
  - 1.5.2 Hon Simeon Brown – Acting Minister for Energy
  - 1.5.3 Hon Penny Simmonds – Acting Minister of Climate Change
  - 1.5.4 Hon Scott Simpson – Acting Minister of Revenue
- 1.6 note that leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change

Proactively Released by the Minister of Climate Change