

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 23 February 2026

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

| <b>Title</b>  | <b>Reference</b>       |
|---|------------------------|
| <b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 2025</i></b> | <b>CAB-25-MIN-0458</b> |
| <b><i>Report on Overseas travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 2025</i></b>                              |                        |

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 2025

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-25-SUB-0458 on his travel, from 24 to 30 November 2025, to Viet Nam, China, Thailand and Cambodia to undertake bilateral visits;
- 2        **retrospectively approved** the additional travel costs of approximately \$5,527 incurred as a result of adding an extra day to also travel to Cambodia.

Diana Hawker  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 24 to 30 November 2025**

We recommend that Cabinet note this report on our travel to Viet Nam, China, Thailand and Cambodia from Monday 24 November to Sunday 30 November 2025 as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Rail.

**Report**

Viet Nam

- 1 The purpose of our travel to Ha Noi, Viet Nam, was to sign the Plan of Action 2025-2030 for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was agreed during Prime Minister Luxon's visit to Viet Nam in February 2025. The visit was also an opportunity to recognise the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations and deepen political relationships.
- 2 We met with newly appointed Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung to sign the Plan of Action, and to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Ministers Meeting. We reaffirmed New Zealand's NZ\$1 million contribution to support Viet Nam's typhoon disaster response, and announced a further NZ\$2 million in support.
- 3 We met with Deputy Prime Minister Dung, at the request of the Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. This provided an opportunity to discuss future areas of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional issues.

China

- 4 The primary purpose of our travel to Guangzhou, China, in our capacity as Minister of Rail, was to participate in an official event commemorating the commercial procurement of New Zealand's two new Interisland ferries. This was the ninth New Zealand Ministerial visit to China in 2025 (including the PM's Mission) and helped underline the significant political investment New Zealand is making in its relationship with our largest trading partner.
- 5 We attended the commemorating event at Guangzhou Shipping International (GSI) alongside Ferry Holdings Limited (FHL) to mark the signing of the commercial contact between the two companies. We also held a meeting with Guangzhou Mayor Sun Zhiyang, during which we reinforced New Zealand's ties with Southern China.
- 6 We concluded our time in Guangzhou by visiting the Hong Kong Jockey Club's (HKJC) Conghua Racecourse, a world-class facility central to the Greater Bay Area's equine industry ambitions. Conghua, which has a number of

New Zealanders in prominent roles, features advanced training tracks, an equine hospital, aqua training and stabling for 1,500 horses.

#### Thailand

- 7 The purpose of our travel to Bangkok, Thailand, was to sign the New Zealand-Thailand Strategic Partnership Plan of Action, which lays the foundation to elevate our bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership in 2026.
- 8 We met with Foreign Minister Sihasak, during which we signed the Strategic Partnership Plan of Action 2026-2030 and discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues. We also announced the lift in Manaaki Scholarships from 4 to 39.
- 9 We were warmly received by Prime Minister Anutin. Our discussions acknowledged the issue of restrictions on skim milk exports to Thailand, and regional issues including the Thailand-Cambodia border dispute.

#### Cambodia

- 10 The primary purpose of our travel to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, was to reaffirm New Zealand's commitment to the bilateral relationship and New Zealand's support for regional stability. This marked our first official visit to Cambodia, and the first ministerial-level visit since Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022.
- 11 We met with Prime Minister Hun Manet and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Prak Sokhonn. Both meetings reaffirmed New Zealand's longstanding support to Cambodia's peace and development programmes. The Cambodian leaders also provided a detailed update on the Cambodia-Thailand border situation.
- 12 Our travel to Cambodia was arranged at short notice, following the late confirmation of our ability to be hosted. This added an extra day to our travel and increased the total cost of from the \$NZ46,688.31 approved by Cabinet to \$NZ52,215.51. The increase in cost was approved by the Prime Minister's office.

#### **Proactive release**

- 13 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

#### **Recommendation**

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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