

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 Climate Change

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0460
<i>Report on Overseas travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025</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.

Proactively Released by the Minister of Climate Change



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: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025

Portfolio Climate Change

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Simon Watts under CAB-25-SUB-0460 on his travel, from 16 to 22 November 2025, 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-hosted event showcasing New Zealand technology companies to the Brazilian market.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[In Confidence]~~

Office of the Minister of Climate Change
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – November 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my 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.

Report

- 1 I led New Zealand's multiagency delegation for the second and final week of the COP30 negotiations in Belém, Brazil. The New Zealand delegation included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry for Primary Industries and Labour Party's Spokesperson for Climate Change, as well as the Chair of the National Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Take Āhuarangi.
- 2 In Belém, I undertook an intensive programme that enabled me to engage with a significant number of counterparts: bilaterally, during ministerial consultations, and in the margins.
- 3 My consistent message was the importance of working with all parties to take action against climate change, and highlighting the value of the multilateral system in supporting this important work.
- 4 Bilateral meetings were held with Singapore, Indonesia, European Union, Vietnam, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), California, Japan, Iceland, United Kingdom, Ireland and China and the following cooperation initiatives were signed:
 - 4.1 Indonesia: Letter of Intent to Cooperate with Indonesia Minister for the Environment Hanif Nurofiq;
 - 4.2 Iceland: signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Iceland Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Jóhann Páll Jóhannsson;
 - 4.3 United Kingdom: signing of the Clean Energy Partnership with United Kingdom Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Ed Miliband.
- 5 Engagement with Pacific partners was a priority throughout COP30. I delivered opening remarks for the Adaptation Futures event at the Moana

Blue Pacific Pavilion. I also co-chaired New Zealand's annual COP Pacific Ministerial Roundtable, alongside Tuvalu. The event was well-attended by counterparts from across the Pacific and was primarily focussed on the issue of COP31 hosting.

- 6 I continued to develop my strong working relationship with my Australian counterpart Chris Bowen and reinforce New Zealand's support for Australia's bid to host COP31. Australia and Türkiye reached an agreement that COP31 would be hosted by Türkiye next year, with Australia leading negotiations and convening a pre-COP meeting in the Pacific.
- 7 New Zealand is working closely with Australia and Pacific nations to support a meaningful COP31 that delivers significant outcomes for the region. New Zealand will continue its involvement in the Pacific Senior Officials Taskforce and the Climate Change Ministerial meetings to contribute to conversations.
- 8 A diverse group of New Zealander stakeholders attended COP30, many of whom were allocated New Zealand Party Overflow badges. This included representatives from research institutions, NGOs, political groups, and iwi groups. I hosted a 'New Zealanders at COP' stakeholder briefing. I also met separately with Te Kāhu Pōkere rangatahi delegation, a group of nine young Māori traveling on behalf of the National Iwi Chairs Forum.
- 9 I participated in several Umbrella Group Ministerial meetings including meetings with the European Union and the UN Secretary General. A key topic of conversation in each of these was the COP31 host decision, s6(a)

- 10 I spoke on a panel at the RAIZ (Resilient Agriculture Investment for net Zero land degradation) Agriculture Ministerial Event, sharing how agricultural resilience in New Zealand is delivered through land restoration programmes. I highlighted that addressing global food security while combating land degradation requires producing more with fewer resources.
- 11 I undertook a series of business-focussed events arranged by NZTE in São Paulo. I attended a breakfast event with key NZTE customers in Brazil, including CarbonClick, Hamilton Jet, Les Mills, and Zespri. Following the breakfast, I spoke at a showcase of New Zealand technology and manufacturing companies, that emphasised the key role of the private sector in climate action and highlighted the innovation and efficiency of New Zealand companies in Brazil.

Proactive release

- 12 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.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change

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