

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 16 June 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 – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - May/June 2026</i></b>	<b>CAB-26-MIN-0147</b>
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - May 2026</i></b>	

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - May/June 2026

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 4 May 2026, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand from, 31 May to 1 June 2026, to travel to Apia, Samoa to represent New Zealand at the Anniversary of Samoa's Independence celebrations;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$6,362.80 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 a senior official 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 Racing;
  - 5.3      Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Rail;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not 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 - May 2026**

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to undertake official travel to Samoa departing on 31 May and arriving back in New Zealand on 1 June. This travel will be to represent New Zealand at the Anniversary of Samoa's Independence celebrations and meet Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 Samoa is one of New Zealand's closest partners. The annual celebration of Samoa's Independence is a significant event and it is appropriate to have senior level representation from New Zealand.
- 4 The objectives of the visit are to:
  - 4.1 Showcase New Zealand as Samoa's enduring partner through high-level attendance at its Independence Day celebrations; and
  - 4.2 Strengthen relations with the new Samoan Government, including Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa, to reinforce our bilateral interests.

### **Outline of Proposed Visit**

- 5 Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa has invited New Zealand to attend Independence Day celebrations.
- 6 In addition to attending official Government of Samoa hosted events, arrangements for a meeting with Samoa Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs are being put in place.

### **Ministerial Party**

- 7 If travel is approved, we will be accompanied by our Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) who is seconded to our office from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 A senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will accompany the delegation. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

## Travel Costs

9 The estimated costs of the travel is outlined below:

Flights:	\$ 4,286.00
Gifts:	\$ 1,000.00
Meals and other expenses:	\$ 500.00
Contingency (10%)	\$ 576.80
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 6,362.80</b>

## Acting Ministers

10 For the duration of this travel, Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio, Hon Simeon Brown will cover the racing portfolio, and Hon Casey Costello will cover the rail portfolio.

## Proactive release

11 It is proposed to release this paper proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

1 We recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise our absence from New Zealand from 31 May to 1 June to travel to Apia to represent New Zealand at the Anniversary of Samoa's Independence;
- 1.2 agree that we be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$6,362.80 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.4 note that we will be accompanied by a senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be a charge to Vote: Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 1.5 agree that in our absence:
  - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 1.5.2 Hon Simeon Brown would act as the Minister for Racing;
  - 1.5.3 Hon Casey Costello would act as the Minister for Rail;

1.6 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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