

# Proactive Release

Date: 17 April 2020

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

***Report on Overseas Travel Rt Hon Winston Peters:***

***Papua New Guinea and Australia, from 1-5 October 2019***

***(CAB-20-MIN-0083)***

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 Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act 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 redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel Rt Hon Winston Peters

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 9 March 2020, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-20-SUB-0083 on his travel, from 1 to 5 October 2019, to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and Sydney, Australia, for bilateral visits.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA, FROM 1 – 5 OCTOBER 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Papua New Guinea and Australia from 1 - 5 October 2019.

**Report**

2 From 2 - 3 October 2019, I undertook a short, successful visit to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) to enhance relations with key political figures following the recent changeover in leadership. From 3 - 4 October, I travelled to Sydney, Australia, where we held the six-monthly bilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Marise Payne.

*Papua New Guinea*

3 During the two-day visit to Port Moresby, I met with senior members of the new PNG Government, including Prime Minister James Marape and Deputy Prime Minister Davis Steven. s6(a)

s6(a)

We had a constructive discussion on the Bougainville referendum, which subsequently took place in November and December, as well as on bilateral development cooperation. This included on the PNG Electrification Partnership, where New Zealand in partnership with PNG, Australia, Japan, and the United States aims to connect 70% of PNG's population to electricity by 2030 (connectivity

is currently at 13%). The conversation with Deputy Prime Minister Steven also covered New Zealand's Pacific Reset and bilateral cooperation.

4 Against the backdrop of the referendum on Bougainville's status, we had a series of valuable exchanges with both the Government of PNG and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to discuss their perspectives and priorities. These included with: President of the ABG John Momis; a joint meeting with PNG Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Sir Puka Temu, and ABG Minister for Implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Albert Punghau. From both the PNG Government and the ABG there was a stated wish to see the referendum proceed smoothly and for it to lead to a negotiated outcome that was in the interests of both sides. New Zealand's reputation on matters regarding Bougainville was visible and strong. The discussions concerning the referendum were encouraging,

s6(a)

#### *Australia*

5 On 3 - 4 October, Australian Foreign Minister Payne hosted our delegation in Sydney for comprehensive consultations covering a wide range of issues, with a particular focus on the Pacific. s6(a)

s6(a)

6 In the Pacific, s6(a)

s6(a)

The consultations were also an opportunity for our delegation to speak in detail about New Zealand's Pacific Reset. s6(a)

s6(a)

7 In frank conversations about geopolitical developments in the region, s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

8 On trans-Tasman issues, we emphasised that New Zealand wants improvements and a “fair go” for New Zealanders living in Australia. s6(a)

s6(a)

Several areas were identified where we could cooperate more closely, s6(a)

s6(a)

On broader global issues, we discussed Commonwealth s6(a)

s6(a)

We had insightful discussions on a range of Middle East, European and Asian issues, as well as multilateral developments including the Christchurch Call.

9 The regular foreign minister-level consultations with Australia were valuable and demonstrated that our two countries remain like-minded in outlook on a wide range of issues. s6(a)

s6(a)

### **Proactive Release**

10 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

11 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

**Approved for lodgement**

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs