



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon David Parker

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 17 February 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon David Parker, from New Zealand, from 25 to 29 February 2020 to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that Rt Hon Winston Peters be accompanied by two members of staff and that Hon David Parker be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **agreed** that the Ministers also be accompanied by Priyanca Radhakrishnan MP;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5 **agreed** that in the absence of both Ministers:
 - 5.1 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Disarmament and Attorney-General;
 - 5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
 - 5.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment;
 - 5.4 Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.5 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing.
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during the Ministers' absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon David Parker

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: INDIA: 25-29 FEBRUARY 2020

On behalf of myself and Hon David Parker, as Foreign Minister and Trade and Export Growth Minister, we seek Cabinet approval to travel together to India from 25-29 February 2020.

Travel Objectives and Programme

2 We propose to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, with Parliamentary Private Secretary for Ethnic Communities Priyanca Radhakrishnan and a New Zealand business delegation, to help lead a lift in New Zealand's relationship with India. The world's second most populous country and third largest economy, s6(a)

This would be the most

senior visit by a New Zealand delegation to India since the Coalition Government took office.

3 The objectives of our proposed travel are to:

- Deepen direct relationships with key ministers in the Narendra Modi Government, which was comfortably re-elected earlier this year, s6(a)
- Highlight that New Zealand is working to enhance the bilateral relationship, including through a refreshed India strategy;
- Position New Zealand as a valued partner for India in the Indo-Pacific region;
- Highlight New Zealand's strategic interests in the Pacific and discuss India's ambition and strategic views of the region and identify areas of potential collaboration;

- Build the \$3 billion two-way trade relationship and advance our strategic trade interests, s6(a)
- Assist the business delegation to make connections and build future business opportunities, and profile how New Zealand can contribute to India's economic development.

4 Our three-day programme will include stops in the political capital, New Delhi, and the commercial capital, Mumbai. It will include the following elements:

- s6(a)
- A series of events to add value to the business delegation, including a showcase for the New Zealand aviation sector; the opening the New Delhi office of Valocity, a software company that automate and simplifies home mortgage lending processes; and a roundtable for New Zealand companies engaged in the food and beverage sector;
- Receptions in New Delhi and Mumbai providing a platform to convey messages to an Indian political and business audience;
- Meetings with key political leaders – including s6(a) and Prakash Javadekar, the Minister for the Environment; and
- Speeches to promote New Zealand's foreign policy and trade approaches and perspectives, to be hosted by think-tank the Observer Research Institute and an Indian chamber of commerce.

Travel

5 We propose to depart New Zealand early on the morning of Tuesday 25 February, returning to New Zealand on the evening of Saturday 29 February. Factoring in travel time, this allows two business days on the ground in New Delhi, and one and a half in Mumbai. We will not miss any Cabinet meetings.

Ministerial Party

6 I will be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and Chief Press Secretary. Minister Parker will be accompanied by his Private Secretary (NZ Trade and Enterprise). Travel costs of this official delegation, including Parliamentary Private Secretary for Ethnic Communities Priyanca Radhakrishnan, will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

7 If you approve our travel, it is proposed that:

- Hon Grant Robertson will act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolio, Hon Dr David Clark will act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and Hon Shane Jones will act in my Racing portfolio from 25-29 February 2020.
- Hon Grant Robertson act in Minister Parker's Attorney-General portfolio, Hon Damien O'Connor will act in the Trade and Export Growth portfolio and Hon Nanaia Mahuta will act in his Environment portfolio from 25-29 February 2020.

Costs of Travel

8 The projected costs of the proposed travel (for two Ministers, the Parliamentary Private Secretary and three accompanying staff members) are:

Airfares: s9(2)(f)(iv)

Accommodation:

Meals:

Ground transportation:

Hospitality:

Gifts:

Contingency:

Total:

Proactive Release

9 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

10 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** our proposed travel to India from 25-29 February 2020;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and Chief Press Secretary; and Minister Parker will be accompanied by his Private Secretary (Trade & Enterprise);
- c) **approve** expenditure up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Grant Robertson will act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolio, Hon Dr David Clark will act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and Hon Shane Jones will act in my Racing portfolio from 25-29 February 2020;
- e) **agree** that Hon Grant Robertson will act in Minister Parker's Attorney-General portfolio, Hon Damien O'Connor will act in the Trade and Export Growth portfolio and Hon Nanaia Mahuta will act in his Environment portfolio from 25-29 February 2020.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs