

Proactive Release

Date: 5 November 2019

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: (CAB-19-MIN-0496)

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 code:

- 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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Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 23 September 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 1 to 5 October 2019, to travel to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and Sydney, Australia for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff in Papua New Guinea and two in Australia;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$25,440 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
 - 4.2 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, and Minister for Racing;
- 5 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA: 1 – 5
OCTOBER 2019**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Papua New Guinea and Australia for bilateral visits from 1 – 5 October. Specifically, we would undertake a brief visit to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 2 – 3 October to enhance relations with key political figures following the recent changeover in leadership; and in Sydney, Australia, from 3 – 4 October hold the six-monthly bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Marise Payne.

The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Papua New Guinea

2 The objectives of the visit to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) are:

- Build rapport with key ministers and stakeholders for New Zealand following a changeover in leadership this year; position New Zealand as a partner PNG can turn to as it navigates upcoming challenges (such as Bougainville's future and third country interest in PNG).
- Support and encourage a patient and consultative approach by PNG and the Autonomous Bougainville Government on Bougainville matters, and have an open and frank discussion on what to expect in the post-referendum period.
- Encourage PNG's renewed engagement in Pacific regionalism, particularly on climate change.
- Bolster New Zealand's position as a trusted security and regional partner at a time of intensifying geostrategic competition.
- Advance other bilateral priorities, including through signing a bilateral Statement of Partnership.

Australia

3 The objectives of the visit to Sydney, Australia are:

- Continue to strengthen the relationship with Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Marise Payne. s6(a)

Experience

shows that strong personal relationships at Ministerial level are a major enabler.

- Discuss areas where New Zealand and Australia can work together to achieve shared foreign policy goals, and have frank conversations about issues on which our approaches differ. Areas likely to be covered include s6(a)

Trans-Tasman issues, including deportations; Asia-Pacific regional concerns, s6(a)

Travel

4 We propose to depart New Zealand on Tuesday 1 October 2019 and return to New Zealand on Saturday 5 October 2019. This travel would take place during the first week of the October recess; I would not miss any Cabinet meetings during this time.

Ministerial Party

5 I propose to be accompanied on the visit by a foreign affairs private secretary from my office for the entire duration of the trip; and accompanied by a press secretary from my office for the Sydney leg only. The travel costs for staff members from my office and I would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

6 I propose that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Racing portfolios, and that Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party to be covered by a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel:

Airfares	\$17,027
Accommodation:	\$3,801
Hospitality and gifts:	\$1,350
Transport:	\$950
Meals	\$1100
Contingency	\$1,212 (5%)
Total	\$25,440

Expenditure of up to \$25,440 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Proactive Release

8 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

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Papua New Guinea and Australia from 1 – 5 October 2019;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) in my office, and a press secretary in my office (Sydney leg only);
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$25,440 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Shane Jones act in my Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Racing portfolios, and that Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 1 – 5 October 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs