

Proactive Release

Date: 8 August 2019

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

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Fiji

***Title of minute Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Fiji
(CAB-19-MIN-0325 refers)***

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

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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 1 July 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 25 to 27 July 2019, to travel to Fiji to attend the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$9,721 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 David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
 - 4.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
 - 4.3 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: FIJI

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji from 25-27 July to attend the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle for this travel.

Travel Objectives

2 The Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting (FFMM) was created in 2016, at New Zealand and Australia's suggestion. It is a preparatory meeting for the annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, which will this year be held in Tuvalu in mid-August, to ensure that Leaders are delivered an agenda that focuses on the right priority regional issues. FFMM is also useful opportunity for Foreign Ministers to discuss and weigh in on important foreign policy issues of the day.

3 The objectives of my proposed travel are to:

- Ensure the FFMM sets up an effective Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu on 12–16 August, by placing the right issues on the Leaders' Agenda (including climate change, regional security, fisheries and oceans, and collective Forum advocacy);

s6(a)

- Advocate for the successful implementation of the new regional security declaration (the Boe Declaration) adopted by Leaders last year in Nauru; and
- Continue to build well-rounded political-level relationships with a range of Pacific Leaders and Foreign Ministers, as envisaged by the Pacific Reset.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand for Fiji on the afternoon on Thursday 25 July and then return to New Zealand on the afternoon of Saturday 27 July. I will not miss any Cabinet meetings during this time.

Ministerial Party

5 If Cabinet approves my travel, I would be accompanied by the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser from my office.

Acting Ministers

6 If Cabinet approves my travel, I propose that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares:	\$6,321
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$1,400
Hospitality and gifts:	\$500
Contingency:	\$1,500
Total	\$9,721

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 Fiji from 25-27 July;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser from my office;
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$9,721 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and
- d) **agree** that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio from 25 to 27 July 2019;

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs