



## Proactive Release

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Date of release: 8 May 2019

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister  
(CAB-19-SUB-0119 refers)***

***Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister  
(CAB-19-MIN-0119 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 section of the Act that would apply has 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; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PRIME MINISTER

**Proposal**

I seek the approval of Cabinet for my absence from New Zealand from the morning of Sunday 31 March until the evening of Tuesday 2 April, to make a bilateral visit to China.

**Background**

2. Following the terror attack of Friday 15 March in Christchurch, I have taken the decision to significantly scale back the scope of this trip. I had initially planned a visit to three Chinese cities, with accompanying Ministers, as well as a business and media delegation. The Chinese had indicated they would welcome such a visit. To ensure that my time out of New Zealand is now able to be kept at a minimum, however, I now plan a visit to Beijing only, the focus of which will be bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. These will provide an opportunity to engage with the leaders of an increasingly influential actor globally and in our region, and to register key messages on the bilateral relationship and broader issues.

3. The specifics of my programme are still being confirmed. At this stage I am planning, in addition to meetings with President Xi and Premier Li, to hold a low-key official opening of the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing, which represents a significant investment by the government in the China relationship. I also expect to be interviewed by a major Chinese media outlet, 6(a) [redacted]. And I will engage with the Kiwi community in Beijing at a reception at the Embassy, where we will jointly commemorate those killed in the 15 March attack.

4. The high level objectives of my visit to Beijing are to:

- a. Reinforce the value and importance of New Zealand's bilateral relationship with China through engagement with Chinese leadership;
- b. Promote New Zealand in China, our number one export market, in particular by progressing our FTA upgrade negotiations and a number of other specific deliverables;
- c. 6(a) [redacted]

d. 6(a)

e.

f.

g.

5. I will have engagement with New Zealand media during the visit, either through stand-ups (if media choose to accompany me) or calling in to New Zealand reporters from Beijing.

**Prime Ministerial Party**

6. I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief of Staff, my Deputy Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC and MFAT and Diplomatic Protection Service officers.

7. My partner will also accompany me to participate in key parts of my programme, and an official spouse's programme.

**Estimated Cost**

8. The cost of the travel is estimated to be:

Airfares	9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation, meals & per diem	
Functions & communications	
Miscellaneous, gifts & contingency	
TOTAL:	

9. The above costs will be a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive - Travel). The costs for the DPMC and MFAT officials and Diplomatic Protection Service officers will be a charge to their respective votes.

10. The host government will assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs.

**Proactive Release**

11. This paper will be proactively released, subject to any redactions.

**Acting Ministers**

12. In my absence, I propose that Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence; Hon Grant Robertson as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Hon Tracey Martin as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

### Recommendations

13. I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. authorise my absence from New Zealand from the morning of Sunday 31 March until the evening of Tuesday 2 April to make a bilateral visit to China;
- b. agree that I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief of Staff, my Deputy Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC and MFAT, and Diplomatic Protection Service officers;
- c. note that I will be accompanied by my partner;
- d. approve the estimated expenditure of <sup>9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> for the Prime Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- e. note that the costs of the DPMC and MFAT officials, and the Diplomatic Protection Service officers, will be a charge to their respective votes;
- f. note that the host government will assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs;
- g. agree that during my absence Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence; Hon Grant Robertson as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Hon Tracey Martin as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**PRIME MINISTER**



# 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: Prime Minister

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 25 March 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from the morning of Sunday 31 March until the evening of Tuesday 2 April 2019, to make a bilateral visit to Beijing, China;
- 2        **agreed** that she be accompanied by her Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief Press Secretary;
- 3        **noted** that she will be accompanied by her partner;
- 4        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to 9(2)(f)(iv) for the Prime Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5        **noted** that she will also be accompanied by Diplomatic Protection Service officers, and officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their respective votes;
- 6        **noted** that the host government will assist with some facilitation, accommodation and ground transport costs;
- 7        **agreed** that in her absence:
  - 7.1      Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
  - 7.2      Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage;
  - 7.3      Hon Tracey Martin as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution:**  
Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister