



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern:

**Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern and Hon Grant Robertson,
Hon Damien O'Connor, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Michael Wood,
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall and Hon James Shaw**

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern and Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Damien O'Connor, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Michael Wood, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall and Hon James Shaw. (CAB-22-SUB-0367 refers).

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Damien O'Connor, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Michael Wood, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall and Hon James Shaw (CAB-22-MIN-0367 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 codes:

- Section 6(a), likely to prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- Section 6(b)(i), likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or agency of such a Government.

~~[Restricted]~~

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern and Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Damien O'Connor, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Michael Wood, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, and Hon James Shaw

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Australia from 4 – 8 July to meet with Prime Minister Albanese, attend the Australia – New Zealand Leadership Forum, and undertake a trade mission.

Report

- 1 The trip provided an important opportunity to meet with key counterparts to discuss bilateral issues, and global and regional challenges. The visit affirmed our close partnership with the new Australian government at a time of global uncertainty and change, and underscored new opportunities for trade and tourism as part of New Zealand's reconnecting strategy. I was accompanied on this visit by Ministers Robertson, O'Connor, Nash, Jackson, Wood, Verrall, and Shaw. On 4 – 7 July, I also led a trade mission to Melbourne and Sydney – my first to Australia since COVID-19. On this mission, I was accompanied by Minister Nash and 31 business delegates.

Australia – New Zealand Leaders' Meeting

- 2 On 8 July I met with Prime Minister Albanese, accompanied by portfolio Ministers. s6(b)(i)

Both sides expressed our desire to do more together ahead of the 40th anniversary of the Closer Economic Relationship and the 80th Anniversary of diplomatic relations next year.

- 3 As reflected in our joint statement, both Prime Minister Albanese and I sought to ensure that the Australia – New Zealand partnership remained agile and responsive to an evolving world. We agreed that we needed to consider the shape of our relationship architecture as a whole to ensure that it reflected the contemporary breadth of the relationship. The heart of our relationship was not just in the foreign affairs space but the economic, climate, defence, and indigenous spaces, and these elements needed to be appropriately reflected. As a first step, we agreed to ensuring annual meetings of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Treasurer/Finance, and Climate Change Ministers. There was also openness to these occurring in a 2+2 format: with a Foreign and Defence Ministers meeting on the one hand and a Treasurers/Climate Change

Ministers meeting on the other. s6(b)(i)

4 All parties were enthusiastic about the opportunity 2023 offered in terms of major bilateral anniversaries. Ministerial bilateral discussions repeatedly turned into brainstorming sessions of deliverables. I set out my expectations, noting that I wanted a set of initiatives to take forward that spoke to the true nature of our partnership, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

5 Prime Minister Albanese and I had a substantive discussion on geostrategic challenges, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

6 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

7 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

8 We also had a valuable exchange on respective priorities and approaches ahead of the Pacific Islands Forum. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

[Redacted]

9 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

10 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

11 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

12 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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13 On economic cooperation, s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

14 s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

15 We discussed cooperation on indigenous issues. s6(a), s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

16 s6(a), s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

Australia – New Zealand Leadership Forum

17 The Australia – New Zealand Leadership Forum took place on 7 – 8 July. The Forum, in conjunction with the Leaders’ Meeting, provided an anchor around which the 7 participating New Zealand Ministers were able to have early and substantive bilateral engagements with their new counterparts. Over 300 business representatives also joined the Forum, including a strong delegation of Indigenous Australian and Māori business, science, and innovation leaders.

18 The Forum achieved a number of outcomes and recommendations for the Australian and New Zealand governments, including establishing a Digital Economy Agreement; accelerating the development of a trans-Tasman Digital Identity Framework; agreement to pursue closer collaboration on Indigenous business; reaffirming commitment to supporting a peaceful, stable, prosperous and resilient South Pacific; addressing labour shortages and skill gaps; rolling out technology initiatives to strengthen supply chain resilience; addressing decarbonisation, climate resilience and clean energy innovation; achieving a seamless trans-Tasman border, including a joint trans-Tasman visa; greater alignment of science and innovation priorities; and improving collaboration on digital health strategies.

19 Prime Minister Albanese and I presented the Trans-Tasman Innovation and Growth Awards to four emerging Australian and New Zealand Businesses that received cash injections of \$25,000 each, donated by sponsors.

20 In the margins of the Forum, New Zealand ministers each met with at least one counterpart, totalling thirteen bilateral meetings. Many engaged with their counterparts across multiple settings over the two days. In addition to Ministers, several New Zealand government departments sent senior delegations to attend the Forum and meet with counterparts, including the heads of MBIE, Treasury, NZTE, Tourism, Customs, Environment, and MFAT.

21 I met with Dominic Perrottet, Premier of New South Wales (NSW). We discussed our governments' respective COVID-19 recovery and rebuilding efforts, noting with appreciation the information sharing that had occurred between New Zealand and NSW health officials and Science Advisers throughout the pandemic. We also discussed housing affordability, s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

22 Minister Robertson's meeting with Treasurer Chalmers focused on the current cost of living challenges. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

23 Minister Robertson also met with NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Matt Kean. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted]

24 Minister O'Connor met with Australian Trade Minister, Don Farrell, and Assistant Trade Minister, Tim Ayres. The meeting touched on the multilateral trading system, updates on Australia and New Zealand's respective Free Trade Agreements, and the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

[Redacted]

25 Minister Nash met with Minister Husic on 7 July. They discussed the unprecedented nature of current economic challenges facing Australia and New Zealand, s6(b)(i)

[Redacted]

26 Minister Nash also met with Senator Farrell to discuss tourism. s6(b)(i)

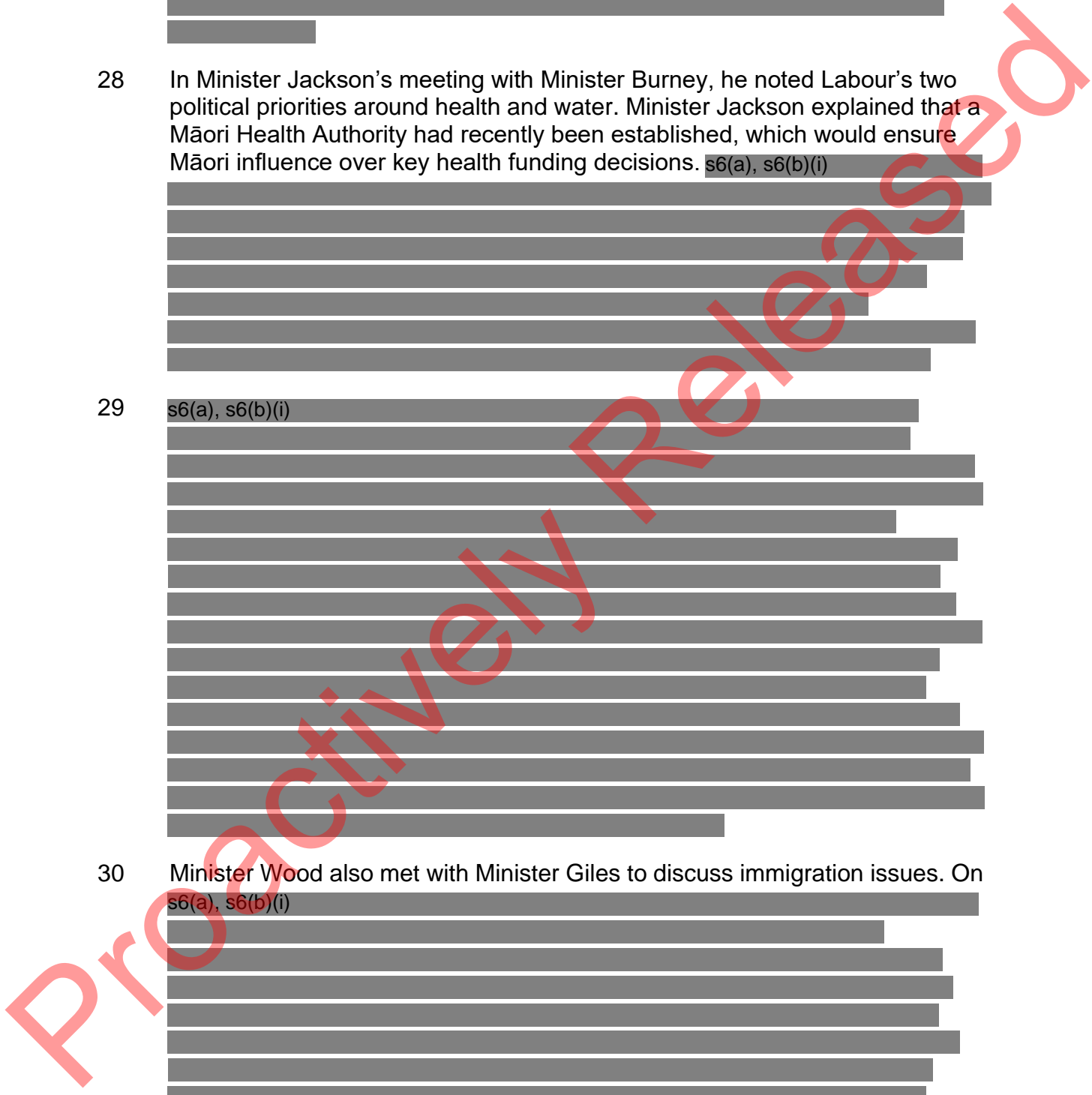
[Redacted]

27 s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

28 In Minister Jackson's meeting with Minister Burney, he noted Labour's two political priorities around health and water. Minister Jackson explained that a Māori Health Authority had recently been established, which would ensure Māori influence over key health funding decisions. s6(a), s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

29 s6(a), s6(b)(i) [Redacted]

30 Minister Wood also met with Minister Giles to discuss immigration issues. On s6(a), s6(b)(i) [Redacted]



s6(a), s6(b)(i)

31 In his meeting with Minister King, Minister Wood introduced a suite of policies that the New Zealand Government had been working on regarding decarbonisation, and explained the purpose of the Emissions Reduction Plan, the clean car scheme, and work on air quality and decarbonising heavy vehicles. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

32 Ministers Verrall and Husic met to discuss their science portfolios. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

33 Minister Verrall also had an in-depth discussion with Minister Kearney on health issues. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

34 Minister Shaw met with his counterpart Minister Bowen to discuss climate change and energy. s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Trade mission

35 The theme of the trade mission was “Connection, Collaboration, and Innovation”. The programme highlighted New Zealand’s high-value offerings, particularly across food and beverage, consumer goods and technology sectors, with a focus on the innovative and collaborative spirit that underpinned our successful trade relationship.

- 36 One of my first engagements was to speak at the opening of the “Natural Capital” business delegation breakfast, hosted by ANZ. The breakfast included a panel discussion on Natural Capital, an emerging asset class in sustainability.
- 37 I then undertook a site visit to Monash Innovation Centre, where I announced a new agreement to help five New Zealand companies develop innovative consumer goods that can be launched into the Australian and international markets.
- 38 Leveraging NZTE’s global Food and Beverage campaign, Made with Care, I attended a Made with Care dinner, which showcased the range of New Zealand food and beverage products available in Australia.
- 39 The ‘Discover New’ launch event at David Jones highlighted New Zealand fashion and designers who are part of a major campaign at David Jones. The New Zealand Design Edit is a one-month event inviting Australians to shop New Zealand designers, including those available in the country for the very first time. The launch was followed by a ‘Discover New’ dinner, which focused on New Zealand consumer brands and food and beverage products.
- 40 I also attended an investment lunch featuring investors from multinational corporates, asset managers, private equity, venture capital, Family Office, and a superannuation fund. This lunch demonstrated to key Australian investment stakeholders that New Zealand welcomes productive, high-quality investment.
- 41 Finally, on 7 July I gave a speech at the Lowy Institute – the centre of Australia’s foreign policy and national security think-tank architecture – on ‘A Pacific Springboard to Engage the World: New Zealand’s independent foreign policy’. The address was a valuable opportunity to share New Zealand’s approach to an independent foreign policy in the 21st century, and underscored that strength can be found in diversity, as long as we are pulling in the same direction. The speech received significant media and social media coverage in Australia.
- 42 At the end of the mission, business leaders commented on the strength and depth of connections they made on the trip and the new opportunities for partnerships and innovation that this afforded.

Media

- 43 During my time in Australia, I was interviewed by ABC on trade, global and regional issues, the Pacific, and key relationships. I also spoke to ESCAPE magazine and the Sunday Telegraph on tourism and travel to New Zealand.

Proactive release

44 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

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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.

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Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 5 September 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-22-SUB-0367 on her travel, together with Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Damien O'Connor, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Michael Wood, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, and Hon James Shaw, from 4 to 8 July 2022, to Australia to meet with Prime Minister Albanese, attend the Australia – New Zealand Leadership Forum and undertake bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet