



Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Management, Hon Kieran McNulty:

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kieran McNulty

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kieran McNulty (CAB-22-SUB-0494 refers)

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kieran McNulty (CAB-22-MIN-0494 refers)

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~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Emergency Management
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kieran McAnulty

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Brisbane, Australia from 18 September 2022 to 20 September 2022. The main purpose of my visit was to attend the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2022.

Report

- 1 From 19-20 September, I led a delegation to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR). The delegation included National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Chief Executive Dave Gawn, and six other delegates comprising my Press Secretary and officials from NEMA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).
- 2 The key achievements of this trip included: the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between New Zealand NEMA and the Australia National Emergency Management Agency; my participation in opening the Australian Emergency Management Ministers Meeting, speaking to the importance of indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction; and valuable high level bilateral meetings that gave me an opportunity to build on existing, and develop new, relationships between New Zealand and countries and organisations from across the Asia-Pacific region, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 3 Over the course of my two days leading the delegation I conducted bilateral meetings with Ministers and leaders of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) from across the Asia-Pacific Region including:
 - Samoa Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment the **Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster**.
 - Australia Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry **Senator the Hon. Murray Watt**.
 - Maldives Minister of Defence **H.E. Uza Mariya Ahmed Didi**.
 - French Polynesia Vice President the **Hon. Jean-Christophe Bouissou**.

- Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management the **Hon. Inia Seruiratu**.
 - Minister for the Environment the **Hon. Joseph Manaute**.
 - Vanuatu Minister for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management the **Hon. Silas Bule Melve**.
- 4 I also met with Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), **Mami Mizutori**. We discussed the role New Zealand can play in encouraging the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction and our support for the Pacific partners, the importance of the Sendai mid-term review, and the upcoming high-level meeting in New York in May 2023. This included her encouraging New Zealand to participate at the highest levels.
- 5 Bilateral meetings served to both develop new, and strengthen existing, relationships between New Zealand and partner countries and organisations in the disaster risk management space.
- 6 Key insights from bilateral meetings included:
- Discussion on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030¹ mid-term review.
 - Pacific partners highlighting the inextricable link between climate change and disaster risk reduction.
 - The need for support around Early Warning Systems and capacity building in Pacific partner National Disaster Management Offices.
 - Clear interest and opportunity for further officials' level coordination and partnership between Pacific National Disaster Management Offices and NEMA and other New Zealand Government agencies.
 - Concerns and issues around Pacific countries accessing the Green Climate Fund and other climate funding.
 - Conversations around capacity building, particularly in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu where concerns around trained and capable staff leaving country were shared.
- 7 The bilateral meeting with Australia also saw the New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency and the newly formed Australia National Emergency Management Agency sign a Memorandum of Cooperation.

¹ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the United Nations international guiding framework for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk.

- 8 The Memorandum intends to bolster disaster resilience and reduce disaster risk in both countries through:
- Establishing regular information sharing on emergency management between NEMA and Australia NEMA.
 - Facilitating assistance including technical advisors and responders, as needed, or requested, after a disaster in each country.
 - Facilitating entry of observers, if feasible, following a disaster in each country.
 - Extending invitation between organisations for relevant training.
 - Coordinating through multilateral fora and relationships on issues of common interest in the Pacific region.
 - Exploring opportunities for joint activities, particularly in research that will inform policy development and emergency management-related matters.
 - Bringing together external subject matter experts from other government agencies, industry, academia, and non-government organisations (NGOs), to assist in building both organisations' awareness and capability on disaster issues.
- 9 I was also invited by Australia's Minister for Emergency Management and Chair of the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting, Senator Hon. Murray Watt, to join Assistant Secretary-General Mizutori in opening the Australian Emergency Management Ministers (State-level) meeting that took place on 19 September after the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation.
- 10 In opening we both noted the importance of privileging indigenous knowledge in our disaster risk reduction and response planning, and the value of coordination across major actors in the disaster risk space.
- 11 Following my departure from Brisbane the Chief Executive of NEMA led the NEMA delegation for the remaining two days of the APMCDRR from 21–22 September 2022.
- 12 During this time, the NEMA delegation represented New Zealand in bilateral meetings with Singapore, Tonga, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre and the Pacific Medical Association Group.
- 13 I would also like to note my virtual presence during sessions of the Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting (PDRMMM) held in Nadi, Fiji in the week prior to the APMCDRR from 14–16 September 2022. NEMA and MFAT officials represented New Zealand on the ground during this event.

- 14 Our combined in-person and virtual presence at this event was well received by Ministers from across the Pacific region and further strengthened relationships between New Zealand and Pacific countries.

Proactive release

- 15 I will release this paper proactively, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

- 16 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management

Proactively Released



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Kieran McAnulty

Portfolio **Emergency Management**

On 7 November 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Kieran McAnulty under CAB-22-SUB-0494 on his travel, from 18 to 20 September 2022, to Brisbane, Australia to attend the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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