



Proactive Release

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: United States 23-30 May 2022

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: United States 23-30 May 2022
(CAB-22-SUB-0192 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-MIN-0192 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 security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Prime Minister
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: United States 23-30 May 2022

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from 23 May to 30 May 2022 along with a trade mission, to support business linkages and technology partnerships with US innovators, in support of New Zealand's sustainable economic recovery.

Reasons for Travel

2 My travel to the United States, if approved, will be my second international engagement since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It will be one of many steps that New Zealand is taking to reconnect with the world following the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. My travel will have a focus on strengthening partnerships between government, business, tourism and industry in this priority market.

3 The objectives of the visit are to:

- Support New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy by demonstrably reconnecting with US businesses and people, and profile New Zealand as an innovative, open and valuable partner and destination;
- Highlight and support the contribution of the US relationship to NZ's economic recovery, security and ability to respond to climate change; and
- Promote the progressive reopening of New Zealand's border to tourists.

4 I will be accompanied by a targeted business delegation of senior delegates, representing a range of New Zealand companies from across the tourism, sustainable business and technology sectors, with a focus on high-value, high-tech innovation, sustainability and addressing climate change.

Bilateral considerations

5 The United States **s6(a)** and is the world's economic and innovation leader. Its geo-economic actions in the world will inevitably bear on our future prosperity, security and sustainability as a nation. My visit to the United States takes place in the context of United States economic and pandemic recovery, climate change challenges, war in Europe and a United States' focus on mounting geopolitical tensions in our own region.

6 It is the right time to undertake a high-profile trade mission to our third-largest economic and trade partner, with exports totalling \$10.22 billion and two-way trade \$18.54 billion for the year ended December 2021. Our connections with the United States will support New Zealand's economic recovery. For New Zealanders and New Zealand businesses, the United States is a vital source of prosperity, through business connections, exports, tourism, innovation, science and knowledge, film and entertainment. The United States is also a leading source of investment into New Zealand and a key partner for addressing climate change. California remains a leading state in the effort against climate change, and an important source of the innovative and green tech advancements that will be critical to New Zealand's own mitigation efforts. Leading the business mission to the United States will support New Zealand's post-pandemic re-engagement strategy and position New Zealand well with both United States business and government.

Outline of proposed visit

7 In the United States, I will travel to New York, Washington, Boston, San Francisco and Seattle and undertake a wide range of official events and targeted media engagements.

8 In New York, I will meet with the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres. There will also be opportunities elsewhere in the programme to build connections with other United States political leaders, such as California Governor Gavin Newsom and the Mayor of Seattle, Bruce Harrell.

9 In Washington, I will be meeting senior US government leaders. I will also announce completion of a bilateral Space Framework Agreement.

10 Building on the recent Singapore and Japan mission experience, the business delegation will accompany the official delegation throughout as part of a team New Zealand approach that reinforces the message to our American partners that we are joined-up and ready to collaborate closely with them.

11 In each city, New Zealand will host a range of events targeted at sectors of interest for the business delegation (tourism, technology and innovation, investment, supply chain resilience) as well as promoting New Zealand's brand and highlighting New Zealand's strengths as a place to visit and a country to do business with. There also will be opportunities to support New Zealand companies doing business in the US, including a new joint venture to expand a regenerative index for wool into new sectors and the launching of net carbon zero meat. I will also engage a number of key United States businesses and organisations with significant New Zealand interests and investments: Microsoft (including a meeting with President and Vice Chair Brad Smith), Amazon and Amazon Web Services, the United States Chamber of Commerce, and the BlackRock investment firm.

12 In Seattle, I will engage with United States technology companies to advance work on the Christchurch Call, explore smart approaches to addressing disinformation, and build a bilateral multi-stakeholder digital technology partnership with the United States focused on high-level dialogue on tech governance issues, building skills and capability, and forging stronger people-to-people links with the United States on technology issues.

13 In Boston, I will give the Commencement Address at Harvard University. I will also meet with the Harvard President and senior leadership, as well as engaging with New Zealand faculty and students.

Travel

14 If travel is approved, I will depart New Zealand on an Air New Zealand flight for New York on Monday 23 May 2022. I will travel internally within the US on RNZAF flights. I will then depart from San Francisco on an Air New Zealand flight that returns to New Zealand on the morning of 30 May.


Prime Ministerial Party

15 If Cabinet approves my travel, I will be accompanied by my partner, my Chief of Staff, my Chief Press Secretary, and officials from Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers.

16 I will also be accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor and his adviser.

Estimated Costs

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Acting Ministers

18 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Grant Robertson act as Acting Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and that Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

19 My responsibilities as Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Carmel Sepuloni.

Recommendations

20 I recommend that Cabinet:

- Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 23 May to 30 May to travel to the United States;
- Agree that I will be accompanied by my partner, my Chief of Staff, my Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC, MFAT and NZTE and officers from New Zealand Police Protection Services;
- Note that I will also be accompanied by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor and his adviser;

• s9(2)(f)(iv)

- Note that the costs of the DPMC, MFAT, NZTE officials and the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will be a charge to their respective votes;
- Agree that in my absence Hon Grant Robertson act as Acting Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and that Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.
- Agree that my Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage responsibilities revert to the primary Minister.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Portfolio Prime Minister

On 23 May 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 23 May to 2 June 2022, to travel to New York, Washington, Boston, San Francisco and Seattle in the United States for various bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by her partner, Chief of Staff, Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC, MFAT and NZTE, and officers from New Zealand Police Protection Services;
- 3 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor and his adviser;
- 4 s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 5 **noted** that the costs of the DPMC, MFAT and NZTE officers and the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will be met by their respective departments;
- 6 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Grant Robertson act as Acting Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
 - 6.2 Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet