



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:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand 12 -20 November 2022

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand
12 – 20 November 2022 (CAB-22-SUB-0483 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-MIN-0483 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: Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand, 12 – 20 November 2022

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand from 12 November to 20 November 2022. In Phnom Penh, I would participate in the East Asia Summit. In Bangkok, I would participate in the APEC Leaders' Summit. Between these two major regional summits, I propose to undertake a bilateral visit and lead a trade mission to Viet Nam.

Purpose of Travel

2 *Regional summitry.* I would be in the region at a time when Southeast Asia sits at the epicentre of global summitry, with EAS (Cambodia), G20 (Indonesia) and APEC (Thailand) all convening world Leaders within days of one another. These three summits bisect the world's major geo-strategic fault lines s6(a)

At a time of maximum global stress, the cause of de-escalation will be served by s6(a) powers coming together in the same rooms for the first time in three years and discussing areas of disagreement (e.g. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, s6(a)

In particular, EAS and APEC are unique opportunities for smaller parties, like Aotearoa, to present their perspective.

3 *Renewing bilateral relationships.* s6(a)

. Through the course of 2022, and if I complete this trip, I would aim to have formally met with two-thirds of APEC and EAS leaders, s6(a)

My visit to Viet Nam reflects the outsized role that country plays in the Indo-Pacific, it being an important partner with which to strengthen strategic alignment and underline where our interests converge. As well as strengthening partnerships, my bilateral engagement also serves a role in staking out areas of difference, s6(a)

4 *Reconnecting New Zealand businesses.* As part of our economic recovery, my visit will profile our economy as we continue to reconnect with the world, including by promoting commercial links, education and tourism. I will lead a business delegation to Viet Nam to open doors for our businesses with a focus on food & beverage, export education and other sectors.

Outline of proposed visit

5 The programme will start in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where I will participate in the East Asia Summit and associated ASEAN events (12-13 November). On the margins of the Summit, I plan to engage with regional leaders.

6 The second leg of the visit is to Viet Nam (14–17 November). In Ha Noi, I plan to meet with Viet Nam’s political leadership, including its President and Prime Minister. In both Ha Noi and the commercial capital Ho Chi Minh City, my focus will be on supporting New Zealand business to reconnect, participating in agriculture and education promotion, as well as hosting networking events. I will also deliver a speech at the Forbes Women Summit, an opportunity to profile New Zealand as a place with which to do business.

7 I will proceed to Bangkok (17-19 November) to participate in the formal APEC Summit proceedings, I plan to meet bilaterally with a number of Leaders, s6(a) . I will speak at the APEC CEO Summit, at which I will profile New Zealand as a place with which to do business.

Travel

8 If the travel is approved, I will fly with the Royal New Zealand Air Force, departing New Zealand on Saturday 12 November. I intend to return to New Zealand on Sunday 20 November.

Prime Ministerial Party

9 If Cabinet approves my travel, I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief of Staff, and my Press Secretary. The Foreign Policy Adviser from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will also travel with me. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and Education New Zealand (ENZ) will join as appropriate.

10 In Viet Nam, I will be accompanied for some trade-related programme elements by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O’Connor,

who has sought approval for his travel separately. In Bangkok, Minister O'Connor will participate in the APEC Ministerial Meeting immediately prior to the APEC Summit.

Estimated Costs

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Acting Ministers


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

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

Recommendations

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 12 to 20 November to travel to Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand;

- Agree that I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief of Staff, my Press Secretary, an official from DPMC, and officers from New Zealand Police Protective, with MFAT and NZTE officials joining as appropriate;
- Note that in Viet Nam I would be accompanied by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor, and a Trade Delegation;
- Note that the costs of the DPMC, MFAT and NZTE officials, as well as the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, will be a charge to their respective votes;
- s9(2)(f)(iv)

- Agree that in my absence Hon Grant Robertson act as Acting Prime Minister, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services; Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security 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



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 7 November 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 12 to 20 November 2022, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Phnom Penh, Cambodia to attend the East Asia Summit;
 - 1.2 Bangkok, Thailand to attend the APEC Leaders' Summit;
 - 1.3 Viet Nam for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by her Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary;
- 3 **noted** that in Viet Nam she will be accompanied by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor, and a trade delegation;
- 4 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by an official from DPMC, and officers from New Zealand Police Protection Services, with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and Education New Zealand officials also joining as appropriate, with their costs being charged to their respective votes;
- 5 s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 6 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Grant Robertson act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
 - 6.2 Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security;
 - 6.3 Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet