



Proactive Release

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon - June 2024

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon - June 2024
(CAB-24-SUB-0186 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon - June 2024
(CAB-24-MIN-0186 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), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

Office of the Prime Minister
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 4 – 7 June 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Niue and Fiji from 4 to 7 June to engage with two of our closest partners in the Pacific.

Purpose of travel

- 2 As part of the Government's Foreign Policy Reset, New Zealand seeks to sustain a comprehensive focus in the Pacific through increased engagement. This focus aims to position New Zealand as a partner of first choice for development and security cooperation, and to protect New Zealand's core strategic interests in the region (national security, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and respect for the rule of law and democratic norms).

- 3 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

It also recognises the degree to which the Pacific is growing economically and providing opportunities for New Zealand businesses. The Pacific diaspora in New Zealand remains actively engaged and interested in how the Government manages its relationships with counterpart Pacific governments.

- 4 The objectives of my trip are:

- 4.1 to send a strong signal of the Government's focus on the Pacific through increased engagement, which reinforces and complements the Minister of Foreign Affairs' own engagement in the region;
- 4.2 to engage on critical issues impacting the region, including with the leaders of Niue and Fiji and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum;
- 4.3 to explore the opportunities for New Zealand businesses in the Pacific and highlight the importance of our economic links with the region; and
- 4.4 to reinforce through targeted announcements the important role the New Zealand International Development Cooperation programme plays in supporting Niue and Fiji to deliver on long-term social and economic resilience goals.

Niue (4 – 5 June)

- 5 On 19 October (and through the course of this year), Niue will mark its 50th anniversary of self-government in free association with New Zealand. A Prime Ministerial visit during Niue's 50th anniversary year demonstrates New Zealand's strong support for a key constitutional partner. The last visit from a New Zealand Prime Minister was in 2018.

- 6 I will be arriving to Niue on 3 June, King's Birthday (4 June New Zealand time), and will host a King's Birthday Reception at the New Zealand Official Residence, in Alofi. The following day will include a bilateral meeting with Premier Tagelagi, a visit to the Assembly, a maritime tour on a New Zealand funded Search and Rescue vessel, visits to New Zealand-funded initiatives, a community lunch hosted by Niue villages and an official opening of Niue's New Zealand-funded, resurfaced Airport runway.

Fiji (5 – 7 June)

- 7 Following my visit to Niue I will travel to Fiji for a two-day visit – the first day in Suva and the second in Nadi. The Fiji leg of the visit provides me the opportunity to highlight New Zealand’s strong economic and security linkages in the Pacific.
- 8 I will meet with key counterparts, including Fiji Prime Minister Hon Sitiveni Rabuka (and other senior Fijian Ministers) and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum. I will also visit the University of the South Pacific – a key regional institution providing education to the Pacific. In Nadi, I will address a joint Fiji-New Zealand Business Council conference and meet key private sector players. I will also take the opportunity to visit a key New Zealand-linked business operating out of Fiji and attend a Fiji-New Zealand joint venture signing.
- 9 I will be travelling with a media delegation. The Royal New Zealand Air Force will provide transportation using the B-757.

Prime Ministerial party

- 10 I will be accompanied by my spouse, Mrs Luxon, and two staff from my office (media and communications).
- 11 Officials joining the mission will come from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other agencies, as required.
- 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will provide operational support.

Estimated costs

13 s9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

Table: Estimated costs

	Niue (NZD)	Fiji (NZD)	Total
Flights	-	-	-
s9(2)(f)(iv)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Transport	-	-	-
s9(2)(f)(iv)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Acting Ministers

- 14 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

Proactive release

- 15 Once the proposed travel has occurred, I will proactively release this paper in part, withholding any sections that are sensitive for either budgetary reasons, or that could have an impact on New Zealand's bilateral relationships.

Recommendations

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

16.1 **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 4 – 7 June 2024 to travel to Niue and Fiji;

16.2 **Agree** that I be accompanied by two staff from my office;

16.3 s9(2)(f)(iv)

16.4 **Note** that the costs of officials, including DPMC, MFAT and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, and any other agencies, will be charged to their respective votes; and

16.5 **Agree** that in my absence, Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
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: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon - June 2024

Portfolio Prime Minister

On 27 May 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon from New Zealand from 4 to 7 June 2024, to travel to Niue and Fiji for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by his spouse and two members of staff from his office;
- 3 s9(2)(f)(iv) 
- 4 **noted** that he will be accompanied by officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose costs will be charged to their respective votes;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
 - 5.2 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet