



## 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: Prime Minister and Hon Todd McClay - June 2024**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Hon Todd McClay - June 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0207 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Hon Todd McClay - June 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0207 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)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Hon Todd McClay, 16 – 20 June 2024**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Japan from 16 – 20 June to engage with political partners. I will also be accompanied by the Minister for Trade and a business delegation to grow New Zealand's economic opportunities.

#### **Purpose of travel**

2. Japan is central to New Zealand's security and economic objectives. Its core interests align with ours: Japan also wants regional stability, open trade routes, and compliance with the rule of law. It is a regional and global powerhouse, stemming in part from its economic heft as the world's fourth largest economy and a technology and innovation hub. Increasingly we are working together with Japan across a range of security, trade and foreign policy issues given the alignment of our concerns and interests. In order to meet the goal of doubling the value of our exports over the next ten years I will be leveraging this visit to open doors, build connections and profile New Zealand's high-quality offerings. I will be accompanied by a business delegation of 31 business leaders from New Zealand companies active and expanding their businesses in Japan, as well as a media delegation.
3. Japan is already our fifth largest trading partner and our fourth largest source of foreign direct investment. Japan is New Zealand's third largest source country for international education. Education represented 28 per cent of New Zealand's total services exports to Japan in 2023. I will also be seeking to elevate New Zealand's profile as a tourist destination to lift arrivals to pre-COVID levels when Japanese tourists were New Zealand's fifth largest source of arrivals.

#### **Objectives**

4. My visit, accompanied by the Minister of Trade and a business delegation, will:
  - i) **Deepen the relationship:** Establishing a good relationship with Prime Minister Kishida and key members of his Cabinet underpins stronger defence and security cooperation.
  - ii) **Reinvigorate the core:** New Zealand's traditional economic relationship with Japan has been based on trade in primary products; tourism; education; sport and cultural links. My visit will help profile and re-energise these areas.
  - iii) **Leverage emerging opportunities:** Japanese technology, innovation and funding can help New Zealand as we seek to achieve our economic

transformation goals, including in energy, science and innovation, and space. New Zealand, in return, can make niche contributions in areas of our own scientific expertise. My visit will help take forward these opportunities.

- 5. I will be holding a summit meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, meeting with the Minister of Defence, and engaging with a series of political leaders who can support the strengthening of our bilateral relationship.

**Deliverables**

- 6. s6(a) [Redacted] I will also announce the next Japanese recipient of the Prime Minister’s Fellowship.

**Prime Ministerial party**

- 7. I will be accompanied by my spouse Amanda Luxon and three staff from my office (policy, media, and communications). The Minister for Trade will be accompanied by his press secretary. Officials joining the trip will come from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Tourism New Zealand, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. A kapa kaha group will also travel with me to showcase the unique facets of Māori culture, and through performance, lift the events being hosted during the visit. Providing operational support will be New Zealand Defence Force personnel and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers.

**Estimated costs**

- 8. The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Prime Minister’s Office, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

<b>Flights</b>	\$ -
<b>Accommodation</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
<b>Hospitality and events</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Per diem and meals</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Gifts</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Transport</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Contingency flights</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Subtotal</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Contingency 10%</b>	[Redacted]
<b>TOTAL</b>	[Redacted]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

- 9. The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Office of the Minister for Trade, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

<b>Flights</b>	\$ -
<b>Accommodation</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv) (MfT + staffer)
<b>Hospitality and events</b>	\$ -
<b>Per diem and meals</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv)
<b>Gifts</b>	\$ -
<b>Transport</b>	\$ -
<b>Contingency flights</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv)
<b>Subtotal</b>	
<b>Contingency 10%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Acting Ministers**

- 10. If my travel is approved, I propose that Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Acting Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence. Acting in Minister McClay’s portfolios will be: Rt Hon Winston Peters as Minister for Trade, Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Forestry, Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister for Agriculture, and Hon Tama Potaka as Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

**Proactive release**

- 11. 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**

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
  - 1.1 **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 16 – 20 June 2024 to travel to Japan;
  - 1.2 **Authorise** the absence of the Minister for Trade from New Zealand from 16 – 20 June 2024 to travel to Japan;
  - 1.3 **Note** that I will be accompanied by my wife, three staff from my office and officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Tourism New Zealand, Education New Zealand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers; and that the Minister of Trade be accompanied by his press secretary.

- 1.4 **Approve** the expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.5 **Note** that the costs of officials will be charged to their respective votes;
- 1.6 **Agree** that in my absence Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Acting Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 1.7 **Agree** that in the absence of the Minister for Trade, Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade, Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Forestry, Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister for Agriculture, and Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Todd McClay - June 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 10 June 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister, and that of Hon Todd McClay, from New Zealand from 16 to 20 June 2024, to travel to Japan for a bilateral visit and to grow New Zealand's economic opportunities;
- 2        **agreed** that the Prime Minister be accompanied by his wife and three staff members, and that Mr McClay be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3        **noted** that the ministerial party will be accompanied by:
  - 3.1      business and media delegations, whose travel costs will be met personally;
  - 3.2      officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Tourism New Zealand, Education New Zealand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the New Zealand Defence Force, and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
  - 3.3      a Kapa Haka group, whose travel costs will be shared by Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise;
- 4        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5        **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister:
  - 5.1      Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 5.2      Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 6        **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Todd McClay:
  - 6.1      Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade;
  - 6.2      Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister of Forestry;

6.3 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture;

6.4 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;

7 **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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