



## 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:

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - June 2024**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - June 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0222 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - June 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0222 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 7(b)(i) and 7(b)(iii), to protect relations between the Governments of New Zealand and the self-governing State of Niue
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

~~Restricted~~

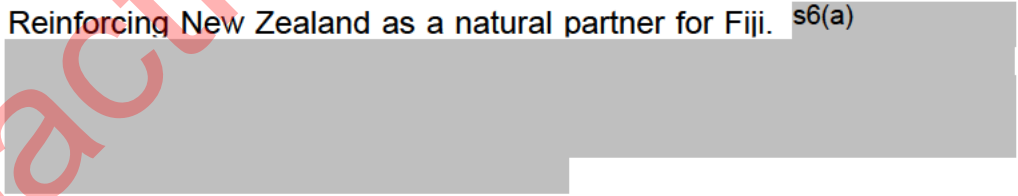
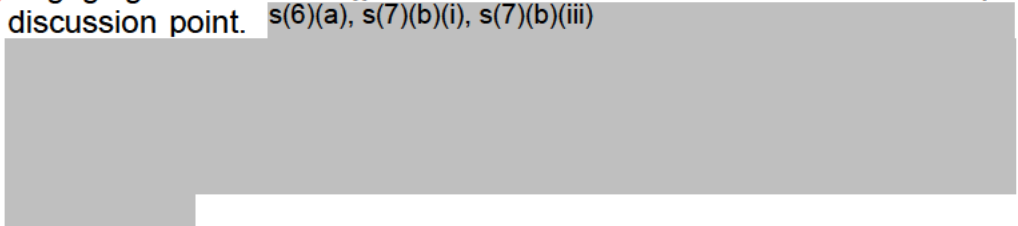
Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – Niue and Fiji – 4-7 June 2024**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Niue and Fiji, from Tuesday 4 June to Friday 7 June.

**Report**

- 1 In our reset of New Zealand's foreign policy, we committed to sustaining our deep and comprehensive focus on the Pacific. We accorded a high priority to travel to this region so we could build personal connections with Pacific leaders to protect our interests and influence. Having met with or spoken to seven Pacific leaders since the election, it was important that I begin a programme of visits to the region, starting with our Realm partner, Niue, and then major regional actor, Fiji. Later in the year, I plan to visit Tonga (for the Pacific Islands Forum) and Samoa (for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting).
- 2 Against that background, the objectives of this trip were achieved by:
  - 2.1 Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Niue's self-government in free association with New Zealand. I was focused on building a relationship of trust, while at the same time reinforcing the mutual obligations we have towards one another in this special and enduring relationship.
  - 2.2 Reinforcing New Zealand as a natural partner for Fiji. s6(a)  

  - 2.3 Engaging on Pacific regional issues. New Caledonia was a major discussion point. s(6)(a), s(7)(b)(i), s(7)(b)(iii)  

  - 2.4 Emphasising New Zealand's enduring commitment to supporting the security, economic and environmental resilience of both countries, including by announcing a series of development projects.

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

In Niue, our special status of course owes much to our 123-year history as constitutional partners, with New Zealand home to twenty times as many Niueans as Niue. Beyond rugby and other sporting connections, many of the current crop of Fijian leaders have family in New Zealand or have fond memories of training with the NZDF or their formative years of education here. s(9)(2)(g)(i), s(6)(a), s(7)(b)(i), s(7)(b)(iii)

At the personal level, it pays dividends for New Zealand leaders to continue our long tradition of engaging meaningfully in the Pacific: we go beyond the transactional, getting to know one another by sharing food, culture, community and sports.

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s(6)(a), s(7)(b)(i), s(7)(b)(iii)

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s(6)(a), s(7)(b)(i), s(7)(b)(iii)

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With both countries, it is important that New Zealand follows through by being a trusted partner, one that delivers on its promises. The types of commitments made in each country are summarised below.

6.1 With Premier Tagelagi, we focused on our mutual obligations to one another. We committed to build a more trusting relationship, including by consulting one another much more closely s(7)(b)(i), s(7)(b)(iii)

Recognising New Zealand is the predominant aid donor, we focused on steps to improve Niue's long-term financial management and discussed productivity opportunities for the Niuean economy.

6.2 With Prime Minister Rabuka, we committed to lifting two-way trade from \$1.4 billion today to \$2 billion by 2030. I encouraged PM Rabuka's Government to consider acceding to PACER Plus. I marked the relaxation of visa requirements for Fijian nationals transiting

through New Zealand, and s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

- 7 While in Niue, we celebrated the King's birthday with Niuean leaders, visited the Legislative Assembly and museum, undertook a tour of the island, and were hosted to lunch by the villages of Avatele and Tamakatoga. As we left, I opened the newly-resealed runway, a project funded and delivered by New Zealand.
- 8 While in Fiji, I also met with the President and three other Cabinet Ministers. I supported New Zealand businesses, including by speaking at a breakfast for NZTE customers and their partners, by profiling Tower Insurance's business support operations, visiting Douglas Pharmaceuticals' factory, and witnessing a new partnership between Fletcher Construction and their local partners. Finally, I spoke to the Fiji – NZ Business Councils.

#### **Proactive release**

- 9 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

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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### Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - June 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 24 June 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-24-SUB-0222 on his travel, from 4 to 7 June 2024, to Niue and Fiji for bilateral visits.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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