



## 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 - July 2024**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - July 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0244 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - July 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0244 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.

Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

## Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – United States, 8-12 July 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to the United States, from Monday 8 July until Friday 12 July 2024 inclusive.

### Purpose of travel

- 1 I intend to travel to Washington DC and San Francisco to undertake a range of bilateral calls; participate in the NATO Leaders' 75th Anniversary Summit; and promote New Zealand's credentials with potential investors. The visit will:
  - 1.1 Lift engagement with close partners, with the aim to demonstrate our credibility as a reliable and relevant strategic partner, and
  - 1.2 Promote exports and attract investment into New Zealand in support of the goal of doubling New Zealand's export value.

#### *Washington DC*

- 2 This year's NATO Summit falls on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alliance. It is taking place against the backdrop of a deteriorating geostrategic environment, and a worsening situation in Ukraine, which highlights the long-term threat to European security posed by Russia, and the deepening strategic convergence between Russia and its partners in the Indo-Pacific s6(a) North Korea).
- 3 New Zealand has been invited to attend the NATO Summit in our capacity as a NATO Indo-Pacific Four (IP4) partner, alongside Australia, Japan, and South Korea. Attendance will demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to shared global security challenges, including Ukraine. It will allow me to build connections with counterpart leaders. s6(a)
- 4 The United States is our most powerful international partner, whose actions in the world affect New Zealand's prosperity and security. I will be seeking to build relationships that support our efforts to inject momentum in our bilateral relationship with the United States, including a range of calls on the Biden Administration as well as Republican powerbrokers.

#### *San Francisco*

- 5 California is the world's fifth largest economy. In San Francisco, I will promote New Zealand as a compelling destination for foreign direct investment. I will also meet with the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, to establish a relationship with a leader whose political influence in the United States is significant and growing.

### Outline of proposed visit

- 6 My programme in Washington DC centres on my attendance at the NATO Summit, which will include:
  - Participating in a session with leaders from the NATO Allies and IP4 countries.
  - A series of IP4 meetings (including with the US and Ukrainian Presidents).
  - Bilateral engagements with American and European counterparts.
  - Attending hospitality events hosted by President Biden.

7 In Washington DC, I also intend to meet:

- The Biden Administration.
- Congressional Leadership.
- s6(a)

- BlackRock to promote investment in New Zealand.

8 During my visit to San Francisco, I intend to undertake the following engagements:

- Meeting with the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom.
- Meetings with tech industry leaders focused on artificial intelligence, innovation, and if the programme allows, space.
- An event to promote New Zealand as an attractive investment destination.

9 If travel is approved, I will depart for Washington DC on Monday 8 July and complete my Prime Ministerial travel in San Francisco on Saturday 13 July. I will then return to New Zealand on Saturday 20 July.

### Prime Ministerial Party

10 I will be accompanied by my Deputy Chief Press Secretary and Senior Digital and Communications Adviser and our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

11 I will also be accompanied by my wife, whose costs will be met personally.

12 I will also be accompanied by the Chief Executive of DPMC and my Foreign Policy Adviser, whose costs will be covered by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Police Dignitary Protection staff will also accompany me.

### Travel costs

13 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:

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	
Transport	
Hospitality/representation	
Gifts	
<b>Overall subtotal</b>	
<b>Contingency 10%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### Acting Ministers

14 If this travel is approved, in my absence Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Prime Minister from my departure until 13 July, and Hon David Seymour will be Acting Prime Minister from 14 July until my return on 20 July.

### Proactive release

15 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

~~Recommendations~~

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 16.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from Monday 8 July to Saturday 20 July 2024 to travel to the United States;
- 16.2 approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 16.3 agree that I be accompanied by my wife, whose costs will be met personally; and two members of staff from my office, each of whom will be a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs;
- 16.4 agree that in my absence Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Prime Minister from Monday 8 July to Saturday 13 July and Hon David Seymour will be Acting Prime Minister from Sunday 14 July until Saturday 20 July;
- 16.5 note that I will undertake personal travel from 13 July to 20 July 2024, for which all costs will be met personally; and
- 16.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

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: Prime Minister - July 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 1 July 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 8 to 20 July 2024 to travel to Washington D.C. and San Francisco, United States of America to attend the NATO Leaders' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit and undertake a range of bilateral visits;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by:
  - 4.1      his wife, whose costs will be met by him personally;
  - 4.2      officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 5        **noted** that he will undertake personal travel from 13 to 20 July 2024, the costs of which will be met by him personally;
- 6        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 6.1      Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 8 to 13 July 2024;
  - 6.2      Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 14 to 20 July 2024;
- 7        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet