



## 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 Deputy Prime Minister - August 2024**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister - August 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0306 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister - August 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0306 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

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Rt Hon Winston Peters – August 2024**

- 1 We seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to attend the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meetings (PIFLM) in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, in August. The Deputy Prime Minister will travel from 24 to 27 August (inclusive) and the Prime Minister will travel from 27 to 30 August (inclusive).

#### **Purpose of Travel**

- 2 Founded in 1971, the PIF is the top political and economic organisation in the Pacific region. It is central to New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific s6(a) A strong and unified PIF underpins our region's voice, agency and ability to navigate the plethora of 21st century challenges.
- 3 The PIFLM is a vital platform for Leaders to convene and agree on policies. It s6(a) in this high-profile and substantial annual meeting.
- 4 The Prime Minister will attend the core elements of the PIFLM – notably the Forum Leaders' Plenary, Retreat, and Dialogue with PIF Partners.
- 5 The Deputy Prime Minister will attend other important elements of the PIFLM programme that commence before the Prime Minister's arrival in Tonga – notably the Forum Leaders' Dialogues with the UN Secretary-General, civil society, the private sector, regional organisations, and observers; the Polynesian Leaders' Meeting; and several informal and cultural engagements.
- 6 The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister will take the opportunity to engage in bilateral meetings with a range of partners on the margins of the summit.
- 7 The attendance of both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister will ensure New Zealand's uninterrupted presence at PIFLM, signal our strong commitment to the PIF, preserve our influence, and provide opportunities to strengthen our relationships, particularly through informal conversations in the margins of the formal meetings and through bilateral meetings.

8 Prior to PIFLM, the Deputy Prime Minister will have attended the PIF Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the Associate Minister of Finance, Hon Shane Jones, will have attended the PIF Economic Ministers' Meeting, both of which are key stepping stones towards building a robust agenda for the Forum Leaders' Meeting.

9 PIFLM builds on efforts over the past eight months to sustain our deeper and comprehensive focus on the Pacific, working closely with Pacific leaders, Australia and like-minded partners to protect our influence and interests. This is evidenced by the high frequency of visits by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to the Pacific region, as foreshadowed in the Government's foreign policy reset.

10 s6(a) [redacted]  
and help protect our core strategic interests in the region: national security, economic prosperity, social cohesion, respect for the rule of law and democratic norms.

**Prime Ministerial and Ministerial Party**

11 The Prime Minister will be accompanied by his wife and three staff from his office. The Deputy Prime Minister will be accompanied by two staff from his office. Their costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

12 The Prime Minister will be accompanied by NZ Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

13 Both will be accompanied by officials, primarily from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by respective departments. In addition, members of the New Zealand media will travel at their own cost.

14 The Deputy Prime Minister will depart on Saturday 24 August on a NZDF Boeing 757 flight and return on Tuesday 27 August on a commercial Air New Zealand flight. The Prime Minister's delegation will depart on Tuesday 27 August and return on Friday 30 August on a NZDF Boeing 757 flight. Pacific leaders have been invited to travel on all flights.

**Travel Costs**

15 The estimated combined total cost for both delegations is s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

16 The estimated cost for the Prime Minister's delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]
Accommodation	[redacted]
Meals and per diems	[redacted]

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Hospitality and gifts	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Subtotal	
Contingency 5 per cent (rounded)	
<b>Overall travel total</b>	

17 The estimated cost for the Deputy Prime Minister's delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	
Meals and per diems	
Hospitality and gifts	
Subtotal	
Contingency 5 per cent (rounded)	
<b>Overall travel total</b>	

### Acting Ministers

18 In the Prime Minister's absence from 27 – 30 August, Hon David Seymour will be the Acting Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services on 27 August. The Deputy Prime Minister will be Acting Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 28 – 30 August. Hon Judith Collins will be Acting Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 27 – 30 August.

19 In the Deputy Prime Minister's absence from 24 – 27 August, Hon Todd McClay will cover his Foreign Affairs portfolio and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover his Racing portfolio.

### Proactive release

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

### Recommendations

21 We recommend that Cabinet:

21.1 Authorise the Deputy Prime Minister's and the Prime Minister's absence from New Zealand, from 24-27 and from 27-30 August respectively, to attend the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tonga;

- 21.2 Agree that they be accompanied by two and three staff members respectively;
- 21.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of both delegations as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 21.4 Note that they will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 21.5 Note that they will be accompanied by media delegations, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 21.6 Agree that in their absence:
- 21.6.1 Hon David Seymour and Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 21.6.2 Hon Collins will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
  - 21.6.3 Hon Todd McClay will act as Minister of Foreign Affairs; and
  - 21.6.4 Hon Andrew Bayly will act as Minister for Racing;
- 21.7 Note that the House is sitting during their absence on Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs



# 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 Deputy Prime Minister - August 2024

**Portfolios**                      **Prime Minister / Foreign Affairs**

On 19 August 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the Prime Minister's absence from New Zealand from 27 to 30 August 2024 and the Deputy Prime Minister's absence from New Zealand, from 24 to 27 August 2024, to attend the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tonga;
- 2        **agreed** that:
  - 2.1      the Prime Minister be accompanied by his wife and three staff members;
  - 2.2      the Deputy Prime Minister be accompanied by two staff members;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> for the travel expenses of both ministerial parties as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that they also will be accompanied by:
  - 4.1      officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agencies;
  - 4.2      media delegations, whose travel costs will be met personally;
- 5        **noted** that the Prime Minister will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection staff, whose costs will be met by Police;
- 6        **noted** that the ministerial parties will travel to Tonga on New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 7        **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister:
  - 7.1      Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services on 27 August 2024;
  - 7.2      the Deputy Prime Minister act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 28 to 30 August 2024;
  - 7.3      Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;

- 8 **agreed** that in the absence of the Deputy Prime Minister:
  - 8.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 8.2 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 9 **agreed** that Hon Dr Shane Reti also travel to Tonga to attend the Pacific Island Leaders' Meeting, with the dates, costs, details of travel and acting ministers to be approved by the Prime Minister's office;
- 10 **noted** that the House is sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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