



## 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, Hon Melissa Lee and Hon Nicola Grigg - September 2024**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Melissa Lee and Hon Nicola Grigg - September 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0324 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Melissa Lee and Hon Nicola Grigg - September 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0324 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 code:**

- 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, 1–6 September 2024**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Malaysia and the Republic of Korea from 1 September to 6 September 2024 to engage with two priority countries in Southeast Asia and North Asia.

#### **Purpose of travel**

- 2 I intend to travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Seoul, Korea in support of the Government's Foreign Policy Reset. I will meet my bilateral counterparts and strengthen the relationship with both countries through engagements in support of New Zealand business, defence and security, and people-to-people interests.
- 3 I will be accompanied by Hon Melissa Lee, Minister for Economic Development, and Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister of State for Trade, and a business delegation in each country, leveraging this opportunity to build connections and support New Zealand's high-quality export offerings. The delegation will consist of 17 business leaders in Malaysia and 19 in Korea, with 15 delegates travelling to both markets. Officials anticipate that a range of policy and commercial deliverables will be announced during the Mission.
- 4 I will also be accompanied by TVNZ. A kapa haka group will also travel with me to Korea to showcase Māori culture, and through performance, lift the gala event being hosted during that part of the visit.
- 5 The objectives of my trip are:
  - 5.1 To cement positive personal relationships with the political leaders of two key regional partners;
  - 5.2 To engage at leader level on strategic challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region;
  - 5.3 To highlight New Zealand's value as a trade and investment partner for Malaysia and Korea, and realise opportunities for closer trade cooperation (including through the removal of barriers to New Zealand businesses);
  - 5.4 To mark our long-standing defence and security ties with both Malaysia and Korea, and reinforce the value of regional security cooperation;
  - 5.5 To promote people-to-people connections and the important role they play in both relationships.

#### *Malaysia (1-3 September 2024)*

- 6 A mission to Malaysia will demonstrate and deepen New Zealand's commitment to our bilateral Strategic Partnership (signed in 2023) with one of our longstanding friends in Southeast Asia. Malaysia is our ninth-largest two-way trading partner by value, and our sixth-largest market for dairy products and education. This mission presents opportunities to strengthen current trade ties and pursue new openings in the technology/digital sectors, and to advance our regional interests with Malaysia.

7 Connections between our people have always been at the core of our relationship and the Mission will enable further cooperation and exchange with Malaysia in the education, youth, sport, and tourism sectors.

*Korea (4-5 September 2024)*

8 Korea is a likeminded democracy that sees the Indo-Pacific region in similar ways to New Zealand. It is our sixth-largest trading partner and fourth-largest education source market. This mission will be the first Prime Ministerial visit since 2015 and is an opportunity to reinvigorate and build connections with the increasingly internationally active Korean leadership.

9 The mission will showcase defence and security and trade and investment opportunities, and promote our future ambitions in the relationship.

10 Both countries are strong partners for New Zealand in regional fora, and both are taking a leading role next year. Malaysia will chair the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2025, and its support for a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and New Zealand, and for an ASEAN-New Zealand 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Summit, will be important. The Republic of Korea will host APEC in 2025.

**Prime Ministerial party**

11 I will be accompanied by two members of staff from my office. I will be joined by Minister for Economic Development, Hon Melissa Lee, and Minister of State for Trade, Hon Nicola Grigg. The Ministers will be accompanied by one member of staff each from their respective offices. Minister Lee and her staff will stay for an additional day in Korea. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

12 I will also be accompanied by my Foreign Policy Adviser (DPMC) and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise whose costs will be covered by their respective agencies.

13 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Protection Services staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

**Travel costs**

14 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 and events <sup>1</sup>	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Gifts	
Meals and per diems	
<b>Subtotal</b>	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Includes costs associated with Minister-hosted events, Kapa Haka group and interpretation

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

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	
Transport	
Hospitality and events (cost included in PMO above)	\$0
Gifts	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and per diems	
<b>Subtotal</b>	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	

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

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	
Transport	\$0
Hospitality and events (cost included in PMO above)	\$0
Gifts	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and per diems	
<b>Subtotal</b>	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	

### Acting Ministers

- 17 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 Lee's portfolios will be Hon Andrew Bayly as Minister for Economic Development, Hon Shane Reti as Minister for Ethnic Communities, and Associate Minister for ACC will return to Hon Matt Doocey as Minister for ACC. Acting in Minister Grigg's portfolios will be Hon Penny Simmonds as Minister for Women, and Associate Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State for Trade will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade.

### Proactive release

- 18 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.

### Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand, from 1 September to 6 September 2024 to travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Seoul, Republic of Korea;

- 1.2 **Agree** that I be accompanied by Minister Lee and Minister Grigg, two members of staff from my office and one member of staff from each of the Ministers' offices, and my Foreign Policy Adviser (DPMC). Minister Lee and her staff will stay for an additional day in Korea.
- 1.3 **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.
- 1.4 **Note** that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by respective agencies.
- 1.5 **Note** that I will be accompanied by a business delegation of 17 in Malaysia and 19 in Korea (with 15 delegates joining for both markets), whose costs will be met by them personally.
- 1.6 **Agree** that in my absence, Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Acting Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 1.7 **Agree** that in the absence of Minister Lee, Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Economic Development, Hon Shane Reti act as Minister for Ethnic Communities, and Associate Minister for ACC will return to Hon Matt Doocey as Minister for ACC.
- 1.8 **Agree** that in the absence of the Minister Grigg, Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Women, and Associate Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State for Trade will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade.

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, Hon Melissa Lee and Hon Nicola Grigg – September 2024

Portfolio                      Prime Minister

On 26 August 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister, Hon Melissa Lee and Hon Nicola Grigg, from New Zealand from 1 to 6 September 2024 to travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Seoul, Republic of Korea for bilateral visits;
- 2        **agreed** that:
  - 2.1      the Prime Minister be accompanied by two staff members;
  - 2.2      Hon Melissa Lee be accompanied by one staff member;
  - 2.3      Hon Nicola Grigg be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3        **noted** that Hon Melissa Lee and her staff will remain in Korea for an additional day;
- 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        **noted** that they will be accompanied by:
  - 5.1      officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by respective agencies;
  - 5.2      a business delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 6        **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 7        **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Melissa Lee:
  - 7.1      Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Economic Development;
  - 7.2      Hon Dr Shane Reti act as Minister for Ethnic Communities;

8 **agreed** that in the absence of the Minister Grigg, Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Women.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released