



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 - October 2024

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister October 2024 (CAB-24-SUB 0377 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – October 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0377)

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

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Office of the Prime Minister
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 9-12 October 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR from 9 October to 12 October 2024 to engage with regional partners through the East Asia Summit.

Purpose of travel

- 2 The Government continues to prioritise engagement with Southeast Asia, given the region is critical to building and maintaining New Zealand's security and prosperity. Lao PDR, as 2024 Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), will host the annual ASEAN Summits, including the 19th East Asia Summit, of which New Zealand is a participant.
- 3 This visit to Lao PDR supports the government's plan to increase New Zealand's focus and resources in our important relationships with ASEAN and with Southeast Asia. New Zealand is an engaged and constructive partner to ASEAN, with an interest in its strength and success. New Zealand has cultivated a reputation based on respect, reliability, and our support for ASEAN's centrality in the region. New Zealand's relationship with ASEAN plays a mutually reinforcing role in our bilateral engagement with individual ASEAN Member States.

Objectives

- 4 I will use the opportunity of these meetings to pursue a number of objectives:
 - 4.1 Confirm an ASEAN-NZ Commemorative Leaders' Summit be held in 2025 and advance New Zealand's intention to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN at that meeting;
 - 4.2 Engage in targeted bilateral meetings intended to advance New Zealand's interests;
 - 4.3 Demonstrate New Zealand's value as a trade and investment partner in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the ASEAN region.
- 5 These objectives seek to ensure we are positioning ourselves in the Indo-Pacific in a manner which reflects the importance of the region to our security and prosperity, and which recognises that many of the most critical strategic threats facing New Zealand emanate from this region. Ensuring we retain an active and credible seat in this Leader-level interaction remains fundamental to our national interests. In seeking to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN in 2025, the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations, we will ensure this reflects the nature and unique character of New Zealand's partnership with ASEAN.

Deliverables

- 6 During the visit I expect to:
 - 6.1 Confirm and announce with ASEAN the scheduling of an ASEAN – New Zealand Commemorative Leaders' Summit in Malaysia in November 2025;

- 6.2 Advance Leaders' awareness of New Zealand's intentions to elevate our partnership with ASEAN, particularly through establishing an ambitious and future-focused Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;
- 6.3 Reinvigorate New Zealand engagement in the East Asia Summit – the premier leaders' forum for discussing geopolitical issues in the Indo-Pacific.

Outline of proposed visit

- 7 In Lao PDR, I will travel to Vientiane and undertake the following engagements:
 - 7.1 Bilateral meetings with counterparts (subject to scheduling), which may include ASEAN Leaders, dialogue partners, and other representatives present;
 - 7.2 Leaders' Gala Dinner hosted by HE Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR;
 - 7.3 Keynote address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit;
 - 7.4 The 19th East Asia Summit.
- 8 If travel is approved, I will travel to and from Lao PDR using the New Zealand Defence Force B757 aircraft. A media delegation will also accompany.

Prime Ministerial party

- 9 I will be accompanied by two members of staff from my office. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 10 I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Their costs will be covered by their respective departments.
- 11 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

Travel costs

- 12 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	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation (PM accommodation and incidentals covered by Laos)	
Transport	
Contingency flights	
Hospitality and events	
Gifts	
Subtotal	
Contingency (5%)	
Total	

Acting Ministers

- 13 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 9 October 2024, and Rt Hon Winston Peters act in those roles from 10-12 October 2024.

Proactive release

- 14 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 9-12 October 2024 to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR;
 - 1.2 Agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Services;
 - 1.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of s 9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Prime 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 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be a charge to their respective Votes;
 - 1.5 Agree that in my absence,
 - 1.5.1 Hon David Seymour will act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 9 October 2024.
 - 1.5.2 Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 10-12 October 2024.

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 - October 2024

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 23 September 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 9 to 12 October 2024, to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the East Asia Summit and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two staff members;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s 9(2)(f)(iv) 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 officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Dignitary Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by their agencies;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met personally;
- 5 **noted** that the Prime Minister’s accommodation costs will be met by the Lao Government;
- 6 **noted** that the ministerial party and delegation is expected to travel on a New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 7 **agreed** that in his absence,
 - 7.1 Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 9 October 2024;
 - 7.2 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 10 to 12 October 2024.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet