



## Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister:

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

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - October 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0428 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - October 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0428 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 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- 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

## Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – Laos, 9-12 October 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Laos between Wednesday 9 October and Saturday 12 October 2024.

### Report

1 In our reset of New Zealand's foreign policy, we are prioritising engagement with the Indo-Pacific. My participation in the East Asia Summit (EAS) allowed me to continue our increased focus on Southeast Asia and ASEAN, as well as engaging counterparts from the wider Indo-Pacific. Against that background, the three objectives of this trip were achieved as follows.

1.1 *ASEAN.* New Zealand is invested in "ASEAN centrality", s6(a)

[REDACTED] As well as representing New Zealand at this important regional summit, it was an opportunity to advance our effort to elevate our partnership with ASEAN. This year, ASEAN Leaders confirmed a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Summit with New Zealand in Kuala Lumpur in 2025. Our objective remains, and ASEAN has acknowledged, to mark that occasion by establishing an ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

1.2 *Bilateral.* s6(a)

[REDACTED] this was a good opportunity to establish new leader-to-leader relationships with some (Cambodia, India and Thailand), to renew connections with others (Australia, Canada, the Philippines, Viet Nam), and to have corridor conversations with many others (e.g. Korea, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore).

1.3 *Trade and investment promotion.* While Laos is a small market for New Zealand (c. \$10 million in exports), business connection was an important aspect of Laos' hosting, and so I spoke at the ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and attended a networking event hosted by ANZ Bank. In addition, I was interviewed by *The Economist* resulting in a New Zealand-focused piece in that international newspaper.

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

***A milestone with India amidst a useful set of bilateral meetings***

- 5 My bilateral engagements were all additive, with them mostly building on previous contact through intensive diplomacy this year. With a strong base of Ministerial engagement through the past year, my first in-person meeting with Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was a significant milestone. s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

**Proactive release**

- 6 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 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

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# 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 - October 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 11 November 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-24-SUB-0428 on his travel, from 9 to 12 October 2024, to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the East Asia Summit and undertake bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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