



## 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:

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Nicola Grigg - February/March 2025**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon –Viet Nam, 25 February – 1 March 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0035 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Nicola Grigg - February/March 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0035 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.

**IN-CONFIDENCE UNCLASSIFIED**

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon –Viet Nam, 25 February – 1 March 2025**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Viet Nam, from Tuesday 25 February until Saturday 1 March 2025 inclusive, to engage with a priority country in Southeast Asia.

**Purpose of travel**

- 2 I intend to visit Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, in support of the Government's Foreign Policy Reset and economic growth plan, and the revitalisation of our relationships in Southeast Asia. I will meet my counterpart, undertaking a series of meetings and engagements intended to promote New Zealand as a partner of choice.

- 3 I will be accompanied by Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, and a business delegation. This visit will build connections and support exporters while also profiling new opportunities in these fast-growing economies. The delegation will consist of around 26 business leaders. Officials anticipate that a range of government to government and commercial deliverables will be announced during the Mission.

- 4 The objectives of my travel are to:

- 4.1 Profile New Zealand as an engaged and active partner to an influential ASEAN member state with strong shared interests in the prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.
- 4.2 Launch celebrations of our 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Viet Nam and seek a commitment from Viet Nam's leaders to upgrade the bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- 4.3 As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of dialogue relations with ASEAN, consolidate support from key ASEAN member states for New Zealand's bid to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2025.
- 4.4 Consolidate and grow our existing trade and economic relationships and unlock new export growth opportunities to meet trade goals of US\$3 billion in two-way trade by 2026 for Viet Nam.

- 5 The mission to Viet Nam will showcase our existing defence and security engagement, people to people links, and trade opportunities, and promote our future ambitions with a strategically important actor in the Indo-Pacific region. Viet Nam is our fourteenth-largest trading partner and fourth-largest education source market in Southeast Asia, with its students a growing source of export revenue for New Zealand universities. Bilateral trade has grown by 40 percent in five years. A fast-growing Viet Nam can contribute further to our national goal of doubling exports by value. The travelling business delegation will be exposed to a range of opportunities to further engage Viet

Nam's growing middle class. Future opportunities include largely untapped sectors such as technology.

- 6 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and Viet Nam. We want to capitalise on the anniversary by elevating our relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The meetings with Viet Nam's leadership will be our opportunity to show the positive trajectory of the relationship and the extent of our common interests.

**Outline of Proposed Visit**

- 7 I intend to undertake or seek the following engagements in Viet Nam:
- Meetings with Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính and other political leaders;
  - Delivering a keynote address at the ASEAN Future Forum;
  - Site visits to major Vietnamese and international companies with whom New Zealand exporters and operators are seeking to build new partnerships.
  - A showcase of New Zealand's premium food and beverage products.

**Prime Ministerial party**

- 8 I will be accompanied by three staff members from my office. I will be joined by Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Hon Nicola Grigg. The Minister will be accompanied by one member of staff from her office. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 9 I will also be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Department of Internal Affairs, and Education New Zealand, whose costs will be covered by their respective agencies.
- 10 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

**Travel costs**

- 11 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.

Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Hospitality and events		
Gifts		
Contingency Flights		

<b>Subtotal</b>	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
<b>Total</b>		

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

<b>Acting</b>	Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
	Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
	Hospitality and events		
	<b>Subtotal</b>		
	<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
	<b>Total</b>		

#### Ministers

- 13 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 14 Minister of State for Trade and Investment will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister for Trade and Investment. Hon Louise Upston will act as Minister for Women. Associate Minister of Agriculture will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture. Associate Minister for ACC will return to Hon Andrew Bayly as Minister of ACC.

#### Proactive Release

- 15 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet'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 25 February to 1 March 2025 to travel to Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.
- 1.2 **Agree** that I be accompanied by Minister Grigg, three members of staff from my office and one member of staff from the Ministers' office, and two staff from Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

- 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, Department of Internal Affairs, Education New Zealand, 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 approximately 26 whose costs will be met by them personally.
- 1.6 **Agree** that in my absence, Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 1.7 **Agree** that in the absence of Hon Grigg, Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women; Minister of State for Trade and Investment will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister for Trade and Investment; Associate Minister of Agriculture will return to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture; and Associate Minister of ACC will return to Hon Andrew Bayly as Minister of ACC.

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 and Hon Nicola Grigg - February/March 2025

Portfolio                      Prime Minister

On 17 February 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister and Hon Nicola Grigg, from New Zealand, from 25 February to 2 March 2025, to travel to Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam for bilateral engagements;
- 2        **agreed** that the Prime Minister be accompanied by three members of staff from his office and Hon Nicola Grigg be accompanied by one member of staff from her office;
- 3        **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);
- 4        **noted** that they will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Department of Internal Affairs, Education New Zealand, and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 5        **noted** that they will also be accompanied by a business delegation of approximately 26 people whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 6        **agreed** that in the Prime Minister's absence:
  - 6.1      Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 6.2      Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 7        **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Nicola Grigg:
  - 7.1      Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women;
- 8        **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet