

# Proactive Release

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The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - 30 September - 2 October 2024</i></b>	CAB-24-MIN-0341
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - 30 September - 2 October 2024</i></b>	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - September/October 2024

Portfolio                      Climate Change

On 9 September 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Simon Watts from New Zealand, from 30 September to 2 October 2024, to travel to Nadi, Fiji to attend the Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa and hold bilateral meetings;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$13,831 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 be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Nicola Willis act as Minister of Climate Change;
  - 5.2      Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister of Revenue;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[In Confidence]~~

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts - 30 September - 2 October 2024**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Nadi, Fiji from 30 September to 2 October to attend the Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa with Australia and New Zealand.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

#### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa is convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), with funding support from Australia.
- 4 The Talanoa will occur on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, preceded by an official Ministerial reception co-hosted by Australia and SPREP on 30 September.
- 5 My participation in the Talanoa will reinforce New Zealand's commitment to supporting climate resilience in the Pacific, global climate action, and an effective outcome at COP29.
- 6 It will deliver on the commitment made with my Australian counterpart, at the recent 2+2 Climate and Finance Dialogue, to work together with the Pacific to address climate change.
- 7 My participation in the Talanoa will demonstrate New Zealand's strong support for Australia's bid to co-host COP31, in partnership with the Pacific, in 2026. A 'Pacific COP' in Australia would be a significant opportunity to increase representation and participation for our region and deliver on Pacific priorities.
- 8 There is broad consensus of the value of increased regional engagement at a political level on climate change issues ahead of annual UN climate talks. The Talanoa also presents an opportunity to deepen relationships with my counterparts in the Pacific.
- 9 During my visit to Nadi, Fiji, I will undertake the following engagements:
  - 9.1 Represent New Zealand at the Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa;
  - 9.2 Hold bilateral meetings with Ministerial counterparts;
  - 9.3 Host a dinner for Ministerial counterparts;

- 9.4 Subject to scheduling, undertake a trip to one of Fiji's emergency operations centres to further understanding of extreme weather event readiness.

### Ministerial Party

- 10 If my travel is approved, I propose to be accompanied by one staff member from my office. Travel costs will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 11 I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Officials' travel expenses will be covered by their agency.

### Travel Costs

- 12 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$6000
Airport transfer:	\$130
Accommodation:	\$3031
Ground transport	\$300
Hospitality	\$2864
Gift	\$300
Food and incidentals	\$547
Contingency (5%)	\$658
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$13,831</b>

Proactively Released by the Minister of Climate Change

## Acting Ministers

- 13 If travel is approved, Hon Nicola Willis will cover my Climate Change portfolio and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my Revenue portfolio in my absence.

## Proactive release

- 14 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 30 September to 2 October to travel to Nadi, Fiji to attend the Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa with Australia;
  - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
  - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$13,831 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, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
  - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
    - 1.5.1 Hon Nicola Willis will cover by Climate Change portfolio;
    - 1.5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my Revenue portfolio;
  - 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence;

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change