

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 21/10/2024

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

| Title | Reference |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September – October 2024 | CAB-24-MIN-0342 |
| Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September – October 2024 | |

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Key to OIA redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



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: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September/October 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 9 September 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 23 September to 1 October 2024 to travel to:
 - 1.1 New York, United States of America to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and undertake bilateral meetings;
 - 1.2 Papeete, French Polynesia for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT);
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$78,765 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 MFAT officials, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[RESTRICTED]~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – September – October 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New York, United States to represent New Zealand at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79), and to undertake bilateral engagements. On the return leg of this travel, it is proposed that a bilateral visit to French Polynesia (Papeete, Tahiti) is undertaken.
- 2 If approved, the Minister and his delegation will depart for New York on the evening of Monday 23 September and return to New Zealand on Tuesday 1 October.
- 3 The Prime Minister's office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 4 The High-Level segment of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79) will run from Monday 23 to Friday 27 September in New York. This year the Minister will lead New Zealand's delegation, alongside approximately 150 Heads of State and Government, and numerous Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers from around the world. The Prime Minister is expected to lead the delegation in 2025.
- 5 The UN system, and the rules-based order it supports, is under strain. Collective problem-solving is being made difficult by geopolitical tensions and fault-lines between the developed and developing world. COVID, the war in Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas conflict and perceptions of double standards from the 'Global South' have fuelled resentment and division. Some actors are seeking to undermine or re-shape multilateral bodies in ways which run counter to New Zealand's core interests.
- 6 New Zealand has a strong interest in a multilateral system that is able to respond to pressing and immediate crises, as well as long-term issues (such as sustainable development and climate change). Despite its flaws and challenges, the UN remains at the heart of most global collective efforts, particularly when it comes to international peace and security, human rights, humanitarian crises, sustainable development and emerging transboundary issues (e.g. cyber, AI).
- 7 It is therefore important for New Zealand to take opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to the UN system and the global rules and norms it helps to develop and protect. High-Level Week provides such a chance. It also

provides an opportunity to advance New Zealand's foreign policy interests through engagement with political and other leaders, consistent with the Coalition Government's foreign policy reset.

8 New Zealand's response to the crowded and ambitious High-Level Week agenda is to focus on the elements that really matter to us - and to the Pacific region, that work well, and in which we can have the most impact. Proposed key objectives for New Zealand's participation in UNGA79 High-Level Week are to:

- Demonstrate our support for the UN and the rules that promote the sovereign equality of states, international peace and security and a strong multilateral system;
- Reinforce our support for progress on issues important to the Pacific region and consistent with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) priorities, such as sea-level rise, climate change, oceans management, and sustainable development;
- Secure and reaffirm important relationships with world leaders, key partnerships, and alliances, including by engaging in bilateral and regional meetings; and
- Share our views and articulate our priorities on the future of the UN agenda.

Outline of Proposed Visit

9 The Minister intends to undertake the following engagements during his visit to New York:

- Deliver New Zealand's national statement at the General Debate;
- Represent New Zealand at key thematic high-level meetings and side events;
- Undertake bilateral engagement with ministerial counterparts and other international officials; and
- Co-host with Tonga an annual gathering of Pacific leaders and Ministers at the New Zealand Mission.

10 s6(a)

11 The Minister intends to depart New York on Saturday 28 September and return via a stop-over in French Polynesia - New Zealand's second largest export market in the Pacific - where he will conduct a short bilateral visit. The objective of this visit is to reinforce New Zealand and French Polynesia's

warm and enduring relationship. If approved, the Minister will conduct bilateral meetings with the President of the Government of French Polynesia, the French High Commissioner, and the Leader of the Opposition. Should timing allow, he would also look to engage with representatives of businesses with links to New Zealand.

Ministerial Party

- 12 The Minister proposes to be accompanied by his Specialist Ministerial Advisor and Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser. The wider New Zealand delegation to UNGA79 High-Level Week will also include staff from the New Zealand Permanent Mission in New York and several MFAT officials who will travel from Wellington.
- 13 Travel costs for the Minister and his Specialist Ministerial Advisor will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. The costs for the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and other MFAT officials will be covered by the Ministry.

Travel Costs

- 14 The estimated costs of this travel:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Airfares: | \$39,916 |
| Accommodation: | \$26,200 |
| Transportation: | \$2,398 |
| Hospitality | \$3,000 |
| Gifts | \$500 |
| Meals | \$3,000 |
| Subtotal | \$75,014 |
| Contingency (5%) | \$3,751 |
| Total: | \$78,765 |

Acting Ministers

- 15 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay will cover the Minister's foreign affairs portfolio, and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover his racing portfolio.

Proactive release

- 16 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. 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 23 September to 1 October 2024 to travel to New York, United States and Papeete, French Polynesia;
 - 1.2 agree that I will be accompanied by my Specialist Ministerial Adviser and our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs – Members of the Executive – Travel;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$78,765 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 my Senior Foreign Policy Adviser who is seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to my office, and several Foreign Affairs and Trade officials whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio; and
 - 1.5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs