

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 26/11/2024

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

| Title | Reference |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - October 2024</i> | CAB-24-MIN-0395 |
| <i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - October 2024</i> | |



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 - October 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 14 October 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand from 18 to 21 October 2024 to travel to:
 - 1.1 Thailand for a for bilateral visit;
 - 1.2 Indonesia to attend the inauguration of Indonesia's President-elect, Prabowo Subianto, and for bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$49,560 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 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 18 to 19 October 2024;
 - 5.2 Hon Mark Mitchell act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 20 to 21 October 2024;
 - 5.3 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not 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 - October 2024

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to Thailand and Indonesia from 18 to 21 October 2024 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of travel

- 3 This travel will support the Government's strategy to increase New Zealand's focus and resources on our relationships in Southeast Asia, a region critical to New Zealand's prosperity and security.
- 4 A visit to Thailand following Prime Minister Luxon's visit in April 2024 would reconfirm New Zealand's strong ambition and commitment to lifting the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership by 2026. The visit is especially timely given the election of a new Thai Prime Minister in August, and provides an opportunity to reinforce and advance the April commitments. Thailand is the only outstanding Southeast Asia priority country under New Zealand's Foreign Policy Reset that we are yet to visit this term.
- 5 Following our visit to Thailand we will travel to Indonesia, at the invitation of the Indonesian Government, to attend the inauguration of Indonesia's President-elect, Prabowo Subianto. Prime Minister Luxon is unable to attend due to other commitments. Attendance at the inauguration is intended to demonstrate the priority New Zealand places on the relationship with Indonesia, and support for the transition of power in the world's third-largest democracy. Other regional leaders will attend, including the Prime Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia, the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom.
- 6 The visit will register New Zealand's ambition to increase engagement with key partners in the Indo-Pacific, and highlight our shared values, interests, and strategic direction in the region. Our visit will reiterate to partners that Southeast Asia matters to New Zealand and will further signal the high tempo of engagement New Zealand intends to carry forward in the coming years.
- 7 Specific objectives for the visit are to:
 - Advance the commitments and targets set by the Prime Ministers of Thailand and New Zealand in April 2024, including a two-way trade goal and elevating New Zealand's relationship with Thailand to a Strategic Partnership (by 2026);

- Re-connect with Foreign Minister Maris, following the establishment of the new Thai Cabinet (September 2024) and demonstrate our continued commitment to working together on issues of mutual interest;
- Reinforce New Zealand's position as a key strategic partner for Thailand and for ASEAN, promoting New Zealand's ambition to enter into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN in 2025;
- Demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the Comprehensive Partnership with Indonesia, and our shared ties as democracies in the Indo-Pacific region;
- Build on our existing connection with President-elect Prabowo and establish early rapport with his new Administration; and
- Convey New Zealand's appreciation to the Indonesian Government for the sensitive and persuasive approach that led to the successful release last month of the New Zealand hostage held in Papua for 19 months.

Outline of proposed visit

8 Our visit to Thailand will include the following key engagements:

- bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maris Sangiampongsa;
- reception for key Thai stakeholders (politicians, senior officials, New Zealand alumni); and
- engagement with New Zealand business in Thailand.

9 We are also seeking a call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

10 Our visit to Indonesia will include the following key engagements:

- the inauguration proceedings for President-elect Prabowo Subianto;
- pull-aside discussions with other leaders in attendance, including United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Lammy (at Lammy's request); and
- an engagement at the New Zealand Official Residence to thank the Embassy team personally for their dedicated work and successful resolution of the Papua hostage case.

Ministerial Party

11 The delegation would include my Specialist Ministerial Adviser, with our travel costs being a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. A Private Secretary seconded to my office from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would also accompany, with their costs covered by the Ministry.

Travel costs

12 The estimated costs of the travel:

| ITEM | COST (NZD) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Flights | \$36,020 |
| Thailand | |
| Accommodation | \$1,200 |
| Meals & transport | \$240 |
| Hospitality/representation costs (120 pax reception, 50% share) | \$6900 |
| Gifts | \$600 |
| <i>Thailand subtotal</i> | \$8,940 |
| Indonesia | |
| Accommodation | \$1,000 |
| Meals & transport | \$340 |
| Hospitality/representation costs (50% share) | \$600 |
| Gifts | \$300 |
| <i>Indonesia subtotal</i> | \$2,240 |
| Overall subtotal | \$47,200 |
| Contingency 5% | \$2,360 |
| TOTAL | \$49,560 |

Acting Ministers

13 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay would cover the foreign affairs portfolio from 18-19 October 2024 and Hon Mark Mitchell from 20-21 October 2024. Hon Andrew Bayly would cover the racing portfolio.

Proactive release

14 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

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 18-21 October 2024 to travel to Thailand and Indonesia;
- 15.2 agree that my Specialist Ministerial Adviser join the delegation;
- 15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$49,560 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;

- 15.4 note that an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry, would also join the delegation;
- 15.5 note that, if approved, this travel will necessitate missing Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings on 21 October 2024;
- 15.6 agree that in my absence:
 - 15.6.1 Hon Todd McClay will act as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 18-19 October 2024 and Hon Mark Mitchell from 20-21 October 2024; and
 - 15.6.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will act as Minister of Racing.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs