



## **Proactive Release**

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister:

### **Proactive Release: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-23-SUB-0174)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-23-MIN-0174)

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 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

### Proposed Overseas Travel: Papua New Guinea, 21-23 May 2023

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 21-23 May to attend the US-Pacific Summit (alongside other Pacific Islands Forum Leaders). I plan to return to New Zealand in the early hours of Tuesday 23 May 2023.

### Reasons for Travel to Papua New Guinea

- 2 The Summit presents an opportunity for engagement on a number of New Zealand's most important bilateral and regional relationships including the Pacific, India and the United States.
- 3 India is hosting a meeting with a limited group of Pacific countries, which excludes New Zealand (and Australia and the French Pacific). Officials are instead seeking a bilateral meeting for me with Prime Minister Modi should our schedules allow.
- 4 In the margins of the Summit I would look to engage with PNG Prime Minister Marape as host and, should time allow, I may undertake limited bilateral activities.
- 5 My specific objectives are to:
  - a. **Demonstrate New Zealand's support for greater US engagement in the region** while reinforcing the importance of utilising regional architecture to achieve Pacific priorities, and the value of a strong relationship for both the Pacific and the US.
  - b. **Further embed New Zealand's Pacific Resilience Approach** – the Cabinet-mandated approach where New Zealand works in partnership with Pacific countries to build individual and regional resilience to the shared challenges we are all facing over inter-generational timeframes.
  - c. **Build personal relationships with Leaders in attendance.** Opportunities for bilateral meetings with US and India Leaders are rare; the key objectives for those meetings (if confirmed) are:
    - *For the US:* to reinforce New Zealand's value to the US as a reliable partner, and welcome s6(a) increased US engagement in the Pacific;

- *For India:* to provide political momentum to our efforts to lift our relationship, discuss India's increased engagement in the Pacific, and exchange views on geostrategic issues impacting the Indo-Pacific region.

### **Outline of proposed visit**

6 If approved, the entire visit will be based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The programme is expected to include the following elements (most are yet to be confirmed):

- a. Attendance at the US-Pacific summit, alongside other Pacific Islands Forum members;
- b. A bilateral meeting with Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape;
- c. A bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi;
- d. A pull-aside meeting with United States President Joe Biden;
- e. Bilateral and pull aside meetings with other Pacific leaders;

### **Travel**

7 If the travel is approved, I will fly on a New Zealand Defence Force Boeing 757 to Papua New Guinea, accompanied by a media delegation, departing New Zealand mid afternoon Sunday 21 May, arriving back in New Zealand early hours of Tuesday 23 May 2023.

### **Prime Ministerial Party**

8 If Cabinet approves my travel, I will be accompanied by a Senior Ministerial Advisor, and a Press Secretary and my Foreign Policy Adviser from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will join as appropriate.

### **Estimated Costs**

9 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:

s9(2)(f)(iv)



s9(2)(f)(iv)

10 Costs associated with the travel of MFAT and DPMC officials, and the New Zealand Police Protective Services officers will be a charge to their respective votes.

### Acting Ministers

11 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Acting Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

### Recommendations

13 I recommend that Cabinet:

- **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 21-23 May to travel to Papua New Guinea;
- **Agree** that I will be accompanied by a Senior Ministerial Advisor, and a Press Secretary and my Foreign Policy Adviser from DPMC, and officers from New Zealand Police Protection Services, with MFAT officials joining as appropriate;
- **Note** that the costs of the DPMC and MFAT officials, as well as the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, will be a charge to their respective votes;
- **Approve** the 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;
- **Agree** that in my absence Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Acting Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Prime Minister  
Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



# 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

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 15 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 21 to 23 May 2023, to travel to Papua New Guinea to attend the US-Pacific Summit;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by a Senior Ministerial Advisor and a Press Secretary from his 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 he will also be accompanied by officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and officers from the New Zealand Police Protection Services, with their costs being charged to their respective votes;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 5.2      Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet