



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Report on Overseas: Prime Minister

Date of release: 12 November 2019

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
(CAB-19-SUB-0511 refers)***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-19-MIN-0511 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:

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

~~RESTRICTED~~

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Tuvalu from 14 August to 16 August, to attend the Pacific Islands Forum.

Report

- 1 Cabinet has already noted the report from Minister Sio, who also represented New Zealand at this year's Pacific Islands Forum. The Minister played an important role in the meetings leading up to the Leaders' Retreat, in particular Tuvalu's centrepiece Climate Change Sataulaga, the Forum's official opening ceremony, and the Polynesian Leaders Group meeting.
- 2 I arrived in Tuvalu on the afternoon before the Leaders' Retreat, which allowed me to hold several bilateral meetings ahead of the Leaders' Working Dinner with the heads of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific. I met with the Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, James Marape, and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sopoaga.
- 3 On Wednesday I began by announcing New Zealand's stepped up assistance for climate change. Tuvalu is one of a number of Pacific Island nations that is incredibly vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rises. Of the total package of assistance of NZ\$300m, \$150m has been dedicated towards Pacific-specific projects, and roughly two thirds of the total amount is likely to go towards projects that include the Pacific. This is appropriate given the challenges the region faces.
- 4 The rest of Wednesday was taken up with the Leaders Retreat. While long, at 13 hours, ^{6(a)} [REDACTED]
The most robust of the discussions in the Retreat was on climate change. Again that took some time, but it saw a genuine brokering of national positions into a consensus Forum climate change Declaration (the Kainaki II Declaration). The Declaration will mean the Pacific Islands Forum will provide a strong, and collective, message to the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in September; emphasising Pacific Leaders' moral authority on climate change issues.
- 5 ^{6(a)} [REDACTED]

6(a)

- 6 Beyond climate change, Leaders endorsed a substantial programme of work on fisheries, in support of a joint commitment to “harness, secure, protect and sustainably manage, use and conserve the living resources of the Blue Pacific such as coastal and oceanic fisheries”. This work will be under the direction of a newly established Regional Fisheries Ministers governance structure. New Zealand has invested heavily in the strategic development of this work, and will continue to remain closely engaged.
- 7 Following on from the adoption of the Boe Declaration at last year’s Forum, Leaders endorsed a Boe Declaration Action Plan that establishes a system of regional governance to underpin collective action on regional security, coupled with prioritised actions and measures aimed at tracking progress. With a range of transnational, cyber, climate change, and human security issues to address in the region, it is clear that a generational leap in effective regional coordination on security is required.
- 8 In a key new developing area of Forum policy, Leaders focused on the importance of preserving existing rights stemming from maritime zones in the face of sea level rise and agreed to two significant actions in this space: to conclude negotiations on all outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones (both between each other in the region and with external partners); and to a collective effort aimed at ensuring that once a Forum Member’s maritime zones are delineated they cannot be challenged or reduced as a result of sea-level rise and climate change.
- 9 The final event of my visit was the Pacific Forum Dialogue Partners event, which brings together the many donor countries and agencies involved in the Pacific. In the margins, I also held productive bilateral meetings with the new (albeit returning) Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, and the United States Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhard. I also met the Forum Secretary General and the President of the Marshall Islands, to discuss what concrete initiatives could be taken in the Forum context to empower women and ensure broader political representation of women in the Pacific. The Forum Secretariat is going to do more work in this area.

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- 11 Despite its size, Tuvalu overcame considerable logistical constraints to deliver a Forum, which gave a vivid sense of community ownership, and celebrated Tuvalu's unique culture and heritage.

Proactive release

- 12 This paper will be proactively released, subject to any redactions.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Authorised for Lodgement

PRIME MINISTER

Proactively released by the 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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 30 September 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-19-SUB-0511 on her travel, from 14 to 16 August 2019, to Tuvalu, to represent New Zealand at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister

Proactively released by the Prime Minister