



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:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-20-SUB-0036 refers)***

***Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-20-MIN-0036 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, and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials.

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PRIME MINISTER

Proposal

I seek the approval of Cabinet for my absence from New Zealand from the afternoon of Monday 24 February to the evening of Friday 28 February to undertake official travel to Fiji and Australia.

Background

2. The key objectives of my visit to Fiji are to:

- cement the bilateral relationship with Fiji and the notion of New Zealand and Fiji as natural strategic partners;
- recognise Fiji as a key regional partner which is taking increasing responsibility for Pacific issues, and which amplifies the Pacific voice in the world;
- underscore to the Government of Fiji the importance of institutionalising and protecting democratic principles and human rights; and
- attend public events which showcase New Zealand's development partnerships with Fiji – including in areas of women's empowerment and climate change.

3. The main focus of my visit to Australia will be the annual Australia- NZ Leaders' meeting with my counterpart Hon Scott Morrison. Key objectives will be to:

- Reinforce the depth and breadth of the Australia-New Zealand relationship, including during the series of recent emergencies that have had fundamental trans-Tasman dimensions;
- Pursue New Zealand's case for change to Australian policy settings concerning New Zealanders in Australia ^{s6(a)} [REDACTED]
- Continue to drive forward the Single Economic Market Agenda and the economic benefits it brings to both countries; and

- Share perspectives on challenges in the Pacific and beyond at a time of heightened strategic competition and stark challenges to global rules and institutions.

I will also attend the signing of the Australia and Aotearoa – New Zealand Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement by the Minister for Maori Development and her Australian counterpart.

4. A media contingent from New Zealand will travel with me.

Prime Ministerial Party

5. I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, my Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC and MFAT, and Police Protection Service officers.

My partner will also accompany me to participate in key parts of the programme.

Estimated Cost

6. The cost of the travel is estimated to be:

Airfares

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Accommodation & meals

Functions & comms

Gifts, miscellaneous & contingency

Total:

7. The above costs will be a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel). The costs for the DPMC and MFAT officials, and the Police Protection Service officers, will be a charge to their respective votes. (Approval for any costs associated with Hon Mahuta’s travel has been sought separately).

8. Some costs associated with accommodation, meals and transport will be met by the host governments.

9. The party will travel to and from Fiji and Australia by RNZAF aircraft. (Travel within Fiji will be by commercial aircraft).

Proactive Release

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

Acting Ministers

11. In my absence, I propose that Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 24 February; Hon Kelvin Davis will act as Prime Minister from 25 to 28 February; Hon Grant Robertson will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 25 to 28 February; and Hon Carmel Sepuloni will act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction for the entire period.

Recommendations

12. I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. approve my absence from New Zealand from the afternoon of Monday 24 February to the evening of Friday 28 February to undertake official travel to Fiji and Australia;
- b. agree that I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, my Chief Press Secretary, officials from DPMC and MFAT, and Police Protection Service officers;
- c. note that I will be accompanied by my partner who will participate in key parts of the programme;
- d. approve the estimated expenditure of ^{s9(2)(f)(iv)} for the Prime Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- e. note that the costs for the DPMC and MFAT officials, and the Police Protection Service officers, will be a charge to their respective votes;
- f. note that the host governments will assist with some accommodation, meal and transport costs;
- g. note that travel will be by RNZAF aircraft (and commercial within Fiji);
- h. note that a media contingent from NZ will travel with me;
- i. agree that Rt Hon Winston Peters will act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 24 February; Hon Kelvin Davis will act as Prime Minister from 25 to 28 February; Hon Grant Robertson will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 25 to 28 February; and Hon Carmel Sepuloni will act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction for the entire period.
- j. note that this travel will not require me to be absent from a Monday meeting of Cabinet.

Authorised for Lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 17 February 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from the afternoon of Monday, 24 February to the evening of Friday, 28 February 2020, to travel to Fiji and Australia for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by two staff members;
- 3 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by her partner, who will participate in key parts of the programme;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to ^{s9(2)(f)(iv)} for the Prime Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by:
 - 5.1 officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Police Protection Service officers, whose costs will be met by their respective votes;
 - 5.2 a media contingent, who will meet their own travel costs;
- 6 **noted** that travel to and from Fiji and Australia will be by RNZAF aircraft;
- 7 **noted** that the host governments will assist with some accommodation, meal and transport costs;
- 8 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 8.1 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister for National Security and Intelligence on 24 February 2020;
 - 8.2 Hon Kelvin Davis act as Prime Minister from 25 to 28 February 2020;
 - 8.3 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 25 to 28 February 2020;
 - 8.4 Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;

9 **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister

Proactively released by the Prime Minister