



## **Proactive Release**

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

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister**

The following documents have been included in this release:

- Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-23-SUB-0035)
- Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-23-MIN-0035)

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 New Zealand.
- section 6(b)(i), to protect information entrusted in confidence by the government of another country.


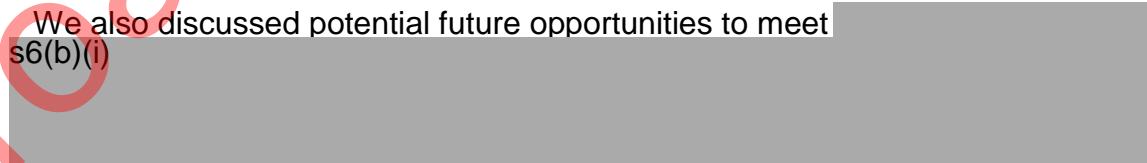
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Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

## Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Chris Hipkins

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Australia on 7 February 2023.

### Report

- 1 I travelled to Canberra, Australia on 7 February 2023 for a one-day visit to meet Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and representatives of the business community.
- 2 This was my first international trip as Prime Minister, which followed the custom of New Zealand Prime Ministers prioritising early engagement with Australia. The purpose of the visit was to build a relationship with Prime Minister Albanese and to lay the groundwork for further high-level political engagement with Australia this year.
- 3 The visit marked the start of a milestone year for the Australia-New Zealand relationship: in 2023, we will celebrate 80 years since the opening of our respective diplomatic missions, 50 years of the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, and 40 years of the Closer Economic Relations (CER) agreement.
- 4 s6(a), s6(b)(i)  

- 5 We also discussed potential future opportunities to meet  
s6(b)(i)  

- 6 I accompanied Prime Minister Albanese to the House floor, where I had the opportunity to meet Representatives including most of the front bench of the Labor Government, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison, current Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, and former leader of the Nationals Party Barnaby Joyce. I also met separately with the President of the Senate Senator Sue Lines and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon Milton Dick.

- 7 I attended a business roundtable event co-hosted by the Trans-Tasman Business Circle to discuss Australia-New Zealand business priorities. Business representatives (which included Bunnings, Woolworth, Australian Bankers Association, Fortescue, Fonterra, Ryman Healthcare, Xero, and Fulton Hogan) raised issues spanning the difficult economic environment, deteriorating social cohesion, and challenges and opportunities associated with climate change adaptation. Businesses expressed interest in Government support to improve the digital business environment. There will be the opportunity to engage on these issues further at the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum in Wellington in July 2023.
- 8 Between these engagements, I participated in a joint press conference with Prime Minister Albanese and had an interview with Australian nightly current affairs programme 730.

### **Proactive release**

- 9 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins  
Prime Minister



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 20 February 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-23-SUB-0035 on his travel, on 7 February 2023, to Canberra, Australia, to meet with the Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and representatives of the business community.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet