



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 15-22 March 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0064 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0064 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 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.

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 15-22 March 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India, from 15 March to 22 March 2025 inclusive. My visit aims to enhance New Zealand's relationship with India – a priority country for us, and one critical to building and maintaining New Zealand's security and prosperity.

Purpose of Travel

- 2 I intend to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India, in support of the Government's strategy to transform our relationship with India, and in support of our economic growth plan. The objectives of the mission are:

s6(a)



Delegation

- 3 To reflect the seriousness with which the Government takes its relationship with India and the broad-based nature of that relationship, I propose to be accompanied by:
 - 3.1 Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Trade and Investment; Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities; and Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality;
 - 3.2 A business delegation of around 40 business leaders from the primary industries, technology and digital, services and manufacturing, tourism and travel, investment and education sectors;
 - 3.3 A community delegation of around 20 individuals who are active contributors to building the strong people-to-people links and cultivating enduring connections between our two countries, including four Members of Parliament;
 - 3.4 A kapa haka performance group; and

3.5 Travelling New Zealand media.

- 4 Given the size of the delegation, the delegation will travel to India using Royal New Zealand Air Force Boeing 757s.

Outline of the visit

- 5 The mission to India is a high-profile element of the Government's strategy to transform New Zealand's relationship with India. s6(a)
- My visit, with the sizeable supporting delegations, is an opportunity to add further momentum to this effort by demonstrating the depth of New Zealand's commitment to a broad-based and sustainable relationship. s6(a)
- 6 I intend to undertake the following engagements in New Delhi and Mumbai:
- meetings with senior government leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi;
 - delivering the keynote address to India's Raisina Dialogue – one of the world's preeminent conferences on security, geopolitics, and geoeconomics;
 - an event to showcase New Zealand as a high-quality destination for education;
 - events focussed on the Navy-to-Navy relationship;
 - a range of events to promote New Zealand tourism, sporting links, investment, and trade promotion.

Prime Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied by three staff from my office. The Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Ethnic Communities and Minister for Tourism and Hospitality will each be accompanied by a staff member.
- 8 Officials joining the mission will come from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Education New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand, and Sport New Zealand. Costs for officials will be met from within their respective agencies' baseline budgets.
- 9 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

Travel Costs

- 10 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:

Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Hospitality and events	
Gifts	
Commercial flight (AKL/SIN)	
Contingency flights	
Accommodation & incidentals for MPs	
Subtotal	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
Total	

- 11 The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Contingency flights (AKL/NDI) return	
Subtotal	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
Total	

- 12 The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Office of the Minister for Ethnic Communities, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Subtotal	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
Total	

- 13 The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Office of the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Subtotal	
Contingency (5%)	
Total	

Acting Ministers

- 14 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 15-21 March; Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 21-22 March; and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 15-22 March.
- 15 Acting in Hon Todd McClay's portfolios will be Hon Nicola Grigg (Trade and Investment), Hon Mark Patterson (Agriculture) and Hon Tama Potaka (Forestry).
- 16 Acting in Hon Mark Mitchell's portfolios will be Hon Casey Costello (Police), Hon Chris Bishop (Sport and Recreation), Hon Paul Goldsmith (Corrections and Ethnic Communities) and Hon Simon Watts (Emergency Management and Recovery).
- 17 Acting in Hon Louise Upston's portfolios will be Hon Penny Simmonds (Social Development and Employment, Community and Voluntary Sector, and Child Poverty Reduction), Hon Matt Doocey (Disability Issues) and Hon Tama Potaka (Tourism and Hospitality).

Proactive release

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

Recommendations

- 19 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 19.1 **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 15 to 22 March 2025, inclusive, to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India;
- 19.2 **Agree** that I be accompanied by Ministers McClay, Mitchell and Upston, three members of staff from my office and one member of staff from each of the three Ministers' offices, and one official from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

- 19.3 **Approve** the estimated 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.
- 19.4 **Note** that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Ministry of Business, Immigration, and Employment, Education New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand, and New Zealand Police - Dignitary Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by respective agencies.
- 19.5 **Note** that I will be accompanied by a business delegation of approximately 40, a community delegation of approximately 20, a media delegation of approximately 16, whose costs will be met by them personally, and a kapa haka group, costs for which will be met through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Cultural Diplomacy International Fund and private funding sources.
- 19.6 **Agree** that in my absence, Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 15-21 March; Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 21-22 March; and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 15-22 March.
- 19.7 **Agree** that in the absence of Minister McClay, Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment; Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture; and Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Forestry.
- 19.8 **Agree** that in the absence of Minister Mitchell, Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Police; Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Sport and Recreation; Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Minister of Corrections and Minister for Ethnic Communities; and Hon Simon Watts act as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery.
- 19.9 **Agree** that in the absence of Minister Upston, Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction; Hon Matt Doocey act as Minister for Disability Issues; and Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Tourism and Hospitality.
- 19.10 **Note** that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

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, Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 10 March 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister, together with the absence of Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay, from New Zealand from 15 to 22 March 2025, to travel to New Delhi and Mumbai, India for bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that they be accompanied by three members of staff from the Prime Minister's office and one member of staff from each of offices of Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay;
- 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 they will be accompanied by officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Ministry of Business, Immigration, and Employment, Education New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand, Sport New Zealand, and New Zealand Police - Dignitary Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 5 **noted** that they will also be accompanied by:
 - 5.1 a delegation of business, community, and media representatives, whose costs will be met by the representatives personally;
 - 5.2 a kapa haka group, whose costs will be met by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Cultural Diplomacy International Fund and private funding sources;
- 6 **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister:
 - 6.1 Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 15 to 21 March 2025;
 - 6.2 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services from 21 to 22 March 2025;
 - 6.3 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence from 15 to 22 March 2025;

- 7 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Louise Upston:
- 7.1 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Tourism and Hospitality;
 - 7.2 Hon Matt Doocey act as Minister for Disability Issues;
 - 7.3 Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;
- 8 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Mark Mitchell:
- 8.1 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Sport and Recreation;
 - 8.2 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Minister of Corrections and Minister for Ethnic Communities;
 - 8.3 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery;
 - 8.4 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Police;
- 9 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Todd McClay:
- 9.1 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 9.2 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 9.3 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 10 **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet