



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 - June 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – People’s Republic of China and Europe (Belgium, Netherlands), 17 to 27 June 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0194 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Todd McClay - June 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0194 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 – People's Republic of China and Europe (Belgium, Netherlands), 17 to 27 June 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to the People's Republic of China and to Europe, from Tuesday 17 June to Friday 27 June inclusive.

Purpose of travel

People's Republic of China, 17 to 20 June 2025

- 2 The purpose of my travel to Shanghai and Beijing is to take forward New Zealand's relationship with China, in support of the government's economic growth plan, and to maintain political connections.
- 3 The objectives of my visit to China are to:
 - 3.1 Advance a bilateral relationship where we engage when our interests align; act to protect and promote our interests; and align with partners.
 - 3.2 Secure and grow bilateral trade and economic relations in areas consistent with New Zealand's interests.
 - 3.3 Connect our people through promoting tourism and education, and supporting cultural links.

Europe: Belgium, Netherlands, and NATO Summit, 21-27 June 2025

- 4 In Europe, I will represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit as one of NATO's four Indo-Pacific Partners, alongside representatives from Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Before the Summit, I will undertake bilateral programmes with the European Union (in Brussels) and the Netherlands. I will reinforce New Zealand's value as an insightful and reliable partner, and leverage opportunities to grow trade and investment.
- 5 The objectives of my visit to Europe are to:
 - 5.1 Demonstrate New Zealand is a reliable and credible partner with a shared interest in upholding the rules-based system;
 - 5.2 Enhance New Zealand's security by demonstrating our relevance as a strategic partner in the interconnected Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security environment; and,

- 5.3 Profile New Zealand to high-value European markets as an innovative research and trading partner and an attractive investment destination.

Outline of proposed visit

People's Republic of China

- 6 China remains our largest trading partner. The scale, prices, and demand profile of the Chinese economy for our traditional exporters is hard to replicate. New Zealand goods exports to China, whilst higher than pre-COVID and again growing, have decreased from a peak in 2022. Building our trade in goods, and student and visitor numbers, will support the Government's objectives of Going for Growth and doubling New Zealand's export value.
- 7 At the political level, my visit and top-to-top meetings with China's leadership will help maintain New Zealand's bilateral relationship with one of our most complex and important partners.
- 8 I intend to undertake the following key engagements in China:
- 8.1 Meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other political leaders;
 - 8.2 A range of events to profile and promote New Zealand businesses with interests in the China market;
 - 8.3 Events to showcase New Zealand as a high quality destination for education and tourism; and
 - 8.4 Witnessing signings of government-level agreements and commercial deals.

Europe: NATO Summit, European Union, and the Netherlands

- 9 This year's NATO Summit, hosted by the Netherlands in the Hague, takes place against the backdrop of major shifts in European security and economic policy. This is driven by the long-term threat Russia poses to European security, as well as United States' messaging that Europe should not depend on them for its security. Meanwhile, there continues to be a deepening strategic convergence between Russia and the Indo-Pacific (demonstrated through the actions of s6(a) North Korea with respect to Russia's war in Ukraine, and other behaviours inimical to international rules and norms).
- 10 For the fourth consecutive year, New Zealand has been invited to the NATO Summit as an Indo-Pacific Partner. The Summit provides an opportunity demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to upholding international rules and contributing to shared security challenges, whether they arise in the Indo-Pacific or Trans-Atlantic, including our unwavering support for Ukraine. My attendance will enable me to build influence with leaders and representatives of NATO's 32 Allies and partners, s6(a)

- 11 At the NATO Summit, I intend to undertake the following engagements:
- 11.1 A Heads of State opening dinner, hosted by the Dutch King.
- 11.2 A series of meetings with leaders of NATO Allies and IP4 partner countries.
- 12 Immediately prior to the Summit, I will visit Brussels for a short bilateral programme. s6(a), I will also undertake bilateral engagements with the Netherlands. This is my opportunity to have in-person, political engagement with one of our anchor relationships in Europe, the European Union (EU), and in the case of the Netherlands, one of New Zealand's top European export markets and investment sources.
- 13 The EU is our fourth largest trading partner, with our exports growing rapidly under the NZ-EU FTA. As the world's largest trading bloc, and a global power committed to democracy and the rule of law, the EU's response international challenges continues to impact global prosperity and security. Engaging with the EU opens doors for cooperation at the Member State level, including as a science and research partner, with these links critical for helping us secure a step-change in New Zealand's approach to embracing science and technology to grow the economy.
- 14 The Netherlands is a top twenty global economy and one of the most open and technologically advanced countries in the world. As our second largest EU export destination, and a logistics gateway to continental Europe, the Netherlands is a critical base for many New Zealand businesses on the continent.
- 15 In Brussels and the Hague I intend to undertake the following engagements:
- 15.1 Meetings with European counterparts, such as the Presidents of the European Commission, European Council s6(a), the Prime Ministers of the Netherlands s6(a);
- 15.2 Events to showcase New Zealand as an attractive investment destination and to shine a light on innovative, high-tech New Zealand businesses that are creating value and jobs; and
- 15.3 Visits to Flanders Fields, honouring the sacrifice made and underlining New Zealand's long-standing support for European security.

Delegation – China

- 16 I propose to be accompanied in China by:
- 16.1 Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality; Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities; s6(a)

- 16.2 a business delegation of around 28 business leaders from the primary industries, health and wellness, tourism and travel, education sectors, along with representatives of business councils and associations;
- 16.3 Member of Parliament Nancy Lu;
- 16.4 a kapa haka group; and,
- 16.5 travelling New Zealand media.
- 17 Given the size of the delegation, it is appropriate that the Royal New Zealand Air Force provide transportation to China using the B-757. I will travel on to Europe by commercial means.

Prime Ministerial Party

- 18 I will be accompanied by three staff members from my office to China and by two staff members to Europe. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 19 Officials joining will come from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For the China mission, officials will also join from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Education New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Their costs will be covered by their respective agencies.
- 20 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

Travel Costs – China

- 21 The following is an expected breakdown of estimated costs for the China visit 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		
Interpretation		
Accommodation and incidentals for travelling Member of Parliament		
Contingency flights		

Subtotal	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Contingency (5%)		
Total		

- 22 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 – 1 accompanying staff member	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Subtotal		
Contingency (5%)		
Total		

- 23 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 – 1 accompanying staff member	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Subtotal		
Contingency (5%)		
Total		

- 24 s6(a)
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s6(a)

s6(a)

Travel Costs – Europe

- 25 The following is an expected 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 and wreaths		
Transport		
Flights		
Subtotal		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
Total		

Acting Ministers

- 26 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence in my absence.
- 27 Acting in Hon Louise Upston's portfolios will be Hon Penny Simmonds (Social Development and Employment, Community and Voluntary Sector); Hon Shane Reti (Child Poverty Reduction); Hon Matt Doocey (Disability Issues) and Hon Tama Potaka (Tourism and Hospitality).
- 28 Acting in Hon Mark Mitchell's portfolios will be Hon Casey Costello (Police); Hon Paul Goldsmith (Corrections, Ethnic Communities); Hon Simeon Brown (Emergency Management and Recovery); and Hon Chris Bishop (Sport and Recreation).

- 29 s6(a)

Proactive release

- 30 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

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, from 17 June to 27 June 2025 to travel to the People's Republic of China (Shanghai and Beijing) and Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands);
 - 1.2 **agree** that I be accompanied to China by Ministers Upston, Mitchell s6(a) (and one member of staff from each office); one Member of Parliament; and three members of my staff;
 - 1.3 **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];
 - 1.4 **note** that I would be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education New Zealand, and Tourism New Zealand whose travel costs would be met by the respective agencies;
 - 1.5 **note** that I would be accompanied to China by a business delegation, whose costs will be self-funded;
 - 1.6 **note** that I would be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs would be met by them personally;
 - 1.7 **agree** that in my absence:
 - 1.7.1 Hon David Seymour will act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services; and
 - 1.7.2 Hon Judith Collins will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
 - 1.8 Agree that in the absence of Minister Upston, Hon Penny Simmonds will act as Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector; Hon Shane Reti will act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction; Hon Matt Doocey will act as Minister for Disability Issues; and Hon Tama Potaka will act as Minister for Tourism and Hospitality.
 - 1.9 Agree that in the absence of Minister Mitchell, Hon Casey Costello will act as Minister of Police; Hon Paul Goldsmith will act as Minister of

Corrections and Minister for Ethnic Communities; Hon Simeon Brown will act as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery; and Hon Chris Bishop will act as Minister for Sport and Recreation.

1.10

s6(a)



1.11 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 - June 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 9 June 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 17 June to 27 June 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Shanghai and Beijing, the People's Republic of China (China) to undertake bilateral engagements;
 - 1.2 Belgium to undertake bilateral engagements; and
 - 1.3 The Netherlands to attend the Nato Summit and undertake bilateral engagements;
- 2 **authorised** the absence of Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell s6(a) from New Zealand, from 17 to 20 June 2025, to accompany the Prime Minister to China;
- 3 **agreed** that the Prime Minister also be accompanied to China by one Member of Parliament and a kapa haka group;
- 4 **agreed** that:
 - 4.1 the Prime Minister be accompanied by three members of staff from his office to China, and two members of staff to Belgium and The Netherlands;
 - 4.2 Hon Louise Upston, Hon Mark Mitchell s6(a) each be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 5 **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);
- 6 **noted** that the Ministerial party will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand and New Zealand Police - Dignitary Protection Services officers, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 7 **noted** that the Ministerial party will also be accompanied to China by a business delegation and a media delegation, whose costs will be met by those delegations personally;

- 8 **noted** that travel to China will be by NZDF Boeing 757;
- 9 **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister:
- 9.1 Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
- 9.2 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 10 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Louise Upston:
- 10.1 Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector and Minister for Social Development and Employment;
- 10.2 Hon Dr Shane Reti act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;
- 10.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Tourism and Hospitality;
- 10.4 Hon Matt Doocey act as Minister for Disability Issues;
- 11 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Mark Mitchell:
- 11.1 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Sport and Recreation;
- 11.2 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Minister of Corrections and Minister for Ethnic Communities;
- 11.3 Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery;
- 11.4 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister of Police;
- 12 s6(a)
- 13 **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet