



## Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

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

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Chris Hipkins (CAB-23-SUB-0249 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-23-MIN-0249 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 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.

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 Papua New Guinea on 21-22 May 2023.

**Report**

- 1 From 21-22 May I visited Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) to attend the US-Pacific Summit. My programme also included bilateral engagements with the PNG Government, three informal gatherings with Pacific Leaders, and bilateral meetings with India Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

*Bilateral programme*

- 2 My visit was accorded official status by the PNG Government, which included a ceremonial welcome on arrival.
- 3 Prime Minister Marape hosted me for a bilateral breakfast meeting the following morning, accompanied by Trade Minister Richard Maru, State Enterprises Minister William Duma, Higher Education Minister Don Polye, and Secretary of State Ivan Pomeleu. We reaffirmed the importance of the bilateral relationship and committed to strengthening ties, including as Pacific neighbours.

4 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

5 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

6 As part of PNG protocol for a first official visit, I paid a courtesy call on Governor-General Grand Chief Sir Bob Dadae at Government House. <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(1)</sup>  
s6(a), s6(b)(i)

7 My bilateral programme also included a visit to Gordons Market, the largest fresh produce market in the South Pacific, which was redeveloped by New Zealand in partnership with the National Capital District and UN Women; and an economic roundtable with PNG business leaders.

*Other bilateral engagements*

India

8 I had a substantive meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was in Port Moresby to host the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

9 <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>  
10

Cook Islands

11 I had a friendly introductory meeting with Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown. We discussed tourism and the post-COVID recovery; New Zealand's \$15 million budget support, <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>  
<sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>; and climate resilience.

12 <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

US

13 I also met bilaterally with Secretary Blinken, who was attending the US-Pacific Summit after President Biden had to withdraw. Other attendees at the meeting included Indo-Pacific Adviser Kurt Campbell and Indo-Pacific Commander John Aquilino.

14 s6(a), s6(b)(i) [redacted]  
[redacted] I welcomed US  
engagement in the Pacific, s6(a), s6(b)(i) [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

15 s6(a), s6(b)(i) [redacted]  
16 [redacted]  
17 [redacted]  
18 [redacted]

*Other engagements*

19 In addition to formal engagements, I had opportunities to build relationships with Pacific Leaders at a welcome dinner hosted by Prime Minister Marape, a breakfast hosted by the PIF Secretariat, and in the period before the US Summit commenced. This included a brief pull-aside with Fiji Prime Minister Rabuka.

20 While India had invited only Pacific Island countries to participate in the FIPIIC Summit meeting, I did attend the lunch for FIPIIC Leaders at Prime Minister Modi's invitation. I also attended PNG Prime Minister Marape's dinner with Pacific Leaders, s6(a), s6(b)(i) [redacted]  
[redacted]

*US-Pacific Summit*

21 Secretary Blinken opened the US-Pacific Summit by outlining what a "free and open" Pacific means to the US – a region where countries are free to choose their own path and their own partners; where problems can be dealt with openly, rules will be reached transparently and applied fairly; and goods,

ideas, and people will flow freely and lawfully across land, the seas, the skies, and cyberspace.

- 22 In my remarks, I welcomed increased US engagement in the region and highlighted New Zealand's commitment to tackling climate change in the Pacific. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text]

- 23 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

[Redacted text]

- 24 At the conclusion of the Summit, a joint statement was released that committed to bolstering Pacific regionalism, acknowledged the nuclear legacy in the Pacific, and supported the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

**Proactive release**

- 25 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

---

*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 19 June 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-23-SUB-0249 on his travel, from 21 to 22 May 2023, to Papua New Guinea to attend the US-Pacific Summit.

Diana Hawker  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released