



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:

Overseas Travel: Governor-General – August 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Governor-General’s travel to the Cook Islands (CAB-25-SUB-0246 refers)

Title of minute: Overseas Travel: Governor-General – August 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0246 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(d), to maintain the safety of any person
- section 9(2)(f)(i), to protect the confidentiality of Sovereign communications
- 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

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S TRAVEL TO THE COOK ISLANDS

Proposal

- 1 Cabinet is asked to note that the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, will travel to the Cook Islands for celebrations of the 60th anniversary of self-governance in free association with New Zealand from 1 to 6 August 2025.

Purpose of Travel

- 2 At the invitation of the Prime Minister, the Governor-General undertakes a programme of international travel, representing New Zealand in the Head of State role (Cabinet Manual 2023, paragraph 1.13).
- 3 The Governor-General has a special responsibility for the Realm countries of Niue, the Cook Islands and Tokelau. As Governor-General in and over the Realm of New Zealand, Dame Cindy will represent New Zealand at the celebrations.

Travel

- 4 The Governor-General will be accompanied on the visit by Dr Richard Davies and the Official Secretary, an Aide-de-Camp ^{s6(d)} [REDACTED]
- 5 On the advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade the Governor-General's kaumātua and a communications adviser will also accompany the Governor-General.

Travel Costs

- 6 The estimated cost of trip is approximately ^{s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)} [REDACTED]. This total includes all anticipated costs that will be met from the permanent legislative authority in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet for the international travel expenses of the Governor-General under section 14 of the Governor-General Act 2010.
- 7 The expenses of the Protection Services officers will be met from Vote Police.

Consultation

- 8 The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade has advised in the development and implementation of the Governor-General's travel programme. MFAT and Government House are working closely on plans for this visit.

Proactive release

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

Administrator of the Government

10 During the absence of the Governor-General from 1 to 6 August 2025, the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, will act as Administrator of the Government.

Recommendations

10 I recommend that Cabinet:

10.1 **note** that the Governor-General will be absent from New Zealand from 1 to 6 August to represent New Zealand at 60th anniversary celebrations in the Cook Islands;

10.2 **note** that the Governor-General will be accompanied by Dr Richard Davies and three Government House staff, her kaumātua s 6(d) ;

10.3 **note** that the total cost of the visit is approximately s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)

10.4 **note** that these costs will be met from the permanent legislative authority in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet for the international travel expenses of the Governor-General under section 14 of the Governor-General Act 2010; however, the costs of s 6(d) will be met from Vote Police;

10.5 **note** that in the absence of the Governor-General from 1 to 6 August the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, will act as Administrator of the Government.

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.

Overseas Travel: Governor-General - August 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 28 July 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Governor-General will be absent from New Zealand from 1 to 6 August 2025 to represent New Zealand at the 60th anniversary celebrations in the Cook Islands;
- 2 **noted** that the Governor-General will be accompanied by Dr Richard Davies, three Government House staff and her kaumātua;
- 3 **noted** that the total cost of the above visit is approximately s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv), which will be met from the permanent legislative authority in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet for the international travel expenses of the Governor-General under section 14 of the Governor-General Act 2010;
- 4 **noted** the Governor-General will also be accompanied by s 6(d), whose costs will be met from Vote Police;
- 5 **noted** that in the absence of the Governor-General, the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, will act as Administrator of the Government.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet