



## 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 - September 2025**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – September 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0294 refers)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - September 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0294 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 – September 2025**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meetings in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 September inclusive.

#### **Purpose of Travel**

- 2 Founded in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum is the top political and economic organisation in the Pacific region. It is central to New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific s6(a) A strong and unified Forum underpins our region's ability to assert our collective interests in a challenging global context.
- 3 The Forum Leaders' Meeting is a vital platform for Pacific Leaders to set the policy direction for the region. It is in New Zealand's interests to be actively engaged in this high-profile and substantial annual meeting. Recent challenges associated with the participation of Forum Dialogue Partners have underscored the importance of maintaining regional unity – with the Forum at the core of those efforts.
- 4 My attendance would signal New Zealand's strong commitment to the Forum and serve to strengthen our regional relationships. My attendance is also key to seeking Leaders' endorsement of New Zealand's offer to chair and host the meeting in 2027.
- 5 Prior to the Forum Leaders' meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt Hon Winston Peters, attended the Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting; the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Dr Shane Reti, attended the PIF Economic Ministers' Meeting; the Minister of Media and Communications, Hon Paul Goldsmith attended the Forum ICT Ministers' Meeting; and the Minister of State for Trade, Hon Nicola Grigg, attended the Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting. These meetings together pave the way for robust discussions amongst the Forum Leaders.

#### **Outline of proposed visit**

- 6 I intend to participate in the core business of the week – the Forum Leaders' Plenary and Leaders' Retreat. I would also take the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with fellow leaders.

## Prime Ministerial Party

- 7 I propose to be accompanied by two members of staff from my Office. Our costs would be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 Officials joining me will come from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by their respective agencies.
- 9 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs would be met by Vote Police.
- 10 The delegation will travel to and from Honiara using an RNZAF asset.

## Travel Costs

- 11 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)	
Transportation and security		
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
<b>Subtotal</b>		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
<b>Total</b>		

## Acting Ministers

- 12 If travel is approved, in my absence, Hon David Seymour would act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

## Proactive release

- 13 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

- 14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 14.1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 9-11 September 2025, to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Solomon Islands;
- 14.2 Agree that I be accompanied by two staff members;
- 14.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Prime Ministerial Party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 14.4 Note that I would be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by their respective agencies;
- 14.5 Note that I would be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs would be met by them personally;
- 14.6 Agree that in my absence, Hon David Seymour would act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 14.7 Note that the House is sitting during my absence on Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10, and Thursday 11 September.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
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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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - September 2025

Portfolio                      Prime Minister

On 1 September 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** his absence from New Zealand, from 9 to 11 September 2025, to travel to Honiara, Solomon Islands to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two staff members;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Prime Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by:
  - 4.1        officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service, whose costs will be met by their respective agencies;
  - 4.2        a media delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 5        **noted** that the Prime Ministerial party and delegation will travel to and from Honiara on New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 6        **agreed** that in his absence, Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 7        **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet