



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 and Hon Nicola Grigg – October/
November 2025**

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Hon Nicola Grigg – Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (ROK), 26 October to 2 November 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0371 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Hon Nicola Grigg – October/November 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0371 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)(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, Hon Nicola Grigg – Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (ROK), 26 October to 2 November 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (ROK), from Sunday 26 October to Sunday 2 November inclusive.

Purpose of Travel

- 2 The purpose of my travel is to:

- 2.1 Attend the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS) and related meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, including the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Leaders' Summit, and to host my fellow ASEAN Leaders at a Gala Luncheon to commemorate 50 years of ASEAN-New Zealand relations;
- 2.2 Undertake a bilateral visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and a short programme in Busan, ROK; and
- 2.3 Attend APEC Economic Leaders' Week (AELW) meetings in Gyeongju, ROK.

- 3 The objectives of my visit are to:

- 3.1 Promote New Zealand's key interests in the Indo-Pacific, consistent with the Government's Foreign Policy Reset;
- 3.2 Demonstrate New Zealand's strong support for regional institutions fundamental to our security and economic prosperity;
- 3.3 Deepen relations with key Indo-Pacific counterparts to underscore New Zealand as a trusted, committed, and ambitious partner; and
- 3.4 Ensure New Zealand's voice is heard in Leader-level discussions on contemporary global and regional issues.

Outline of proposed visit

- 4 My travel comes at a time of geopolitical flux. International rules and norms, and multilateral institutions that are fundamental to New Zealand's security and prosperity, are under significant strain. These trends are being felt acutely in the Indo-Pacific. Retaining an active and credible seat in these important Leader-level Summits remains fundamental to our national interests. I will also take the opportunity to have bilateral meetings with several of my counterparts

in attendance at each Summit, to exchange views and, where relevant, progress important bilateral workstreams.

5 In Malaysia, I will:

- 5.1 Attend the EAS and related meetings including the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Leaders' Summit – where we will establish the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Summit, and host ASEAN Leaders at a Gala Luncheon to commemorate 50 years of ASEAN-New Zealand relations;
- 5.2 Undertake a programme of bilateral engagement designed to profile New Zealand as an attractive investment destination and a trusted trade partner including on halal exports, plus celebrate our enhanced sport and education cooperation; and
- 5.3 Undertake bilateral political engagements with Malaysian representatives.

6 In ROK, I will:

- 6.1 Join APEC Leaders in the annual meeting and retreat, engage in the dialogue with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and speak at the APEC CEO Summit;
- 6.2 Undertake a short programme in Busan, ROK, to highlight our trade links and opportunities for greater economic cooperation, complementing the focus of APEC Leaders' Week; and
- 6.3 Launch of the New Zealand – ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) alongside Korean President Lee, marking a deeper, more integrated relationship with one of our closest partners in North Asia;

Prime Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied by three staff members from my Office and my spouse. In Malaysia, I propose to be accompanied by Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, who will be accompanied by one staff member. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 I will also be accompanied by s6(d) [REDACTED] whose costs will be met by Vote Police.
- 9 Officials joining the travel will come from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Story. Their costs will be covered by their respective agencies.
- 10 Travelling New Zealand media will accompany throughout. The Royal New Zealand Air Force will provide transportation using the B-757.

Travel Costs – Malaysia

- 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)	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Hospitality and events		
Contingency flights		
Subtotal		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
Total		

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

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Accommodation – 1 accompanying staff		
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Gift		
Contingency Flights		
Subtotal		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
Total		

Travel Costs - ROK

- 13 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		
Contingency flights		
Subtotal		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
Total		

Acting Ministers

- 14 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services.
- 15 If Hon Nicola Grigg's travel is approved, Hon Louise Upston would act as Minister for Women. Hon Grigg's Associate Minister of Agriculture portfolio would revert to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture; Associate Minister for ACC would revert to Hon Scott Simpson as Minister for ACC; and Minister of State for Trade and Investment would revert to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Trade and Investment.

Proactive release

- 16 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Department of the 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, to Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (ROK), from Sunday 26 October to Sunday 2 November;
 - 1.2 **agree** that I be accompanied by three members of my staff, and to Malaysia by Minister Grigg and one member of staff from her office;
 - 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 Department the of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

New Zealand Story, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service, whose travel costs would be met by the respective agencies;

- 1.5 **note** that I would be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs would be met by them personally;
- 1.6 **agree** that in my absence, Hon David Seymour would act as Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services.
- 1.7 **agree** that in the absence of Minister Grigg:
 - 1.7.1 Hon Louise Upston would act as Minister for Women;
 - 1.7.2 Associate Minister of Agriculture would revert to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 1.7.3 Associate Minister for ACC would revert to Hon Scott Simpson as Minister for ACC; and
 - 1.7.4 Minister of State for Trade and Investment would revert to Hon Todd McClay as Minister of Trade and Investment.
- 1.8 **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 and Hon Nicola Grigg – October/November 2025

Portfolio Prime Minister

On 20 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 26 October to 2 November 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 20th East Asia Summit and the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Leaders' Summit, and undertake bilateral engagements;
 - 1.2 Gyeongju and Busan, the Republic of Korea to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Week meetings and undertake bilateral engagements;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by Hon Nicola Grigg, between 26 to 28 October 2025, to Malaysia;
- 3 **agreed** that:
 - 3.1 the Prime Minister be accompanied by his spouse and three members of staff;
 - 3.2 Hon Nicola Grigg be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 4 **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);
- 5 **noted** that the Prime Minister will also be accompanied by:
 - 5.1 officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Story, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
 - 5.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met by them personally;
- 6 **noted** that the ministerial party and delegation will travel on a New Zealand Air Force aircraft;

- 7 **agreed** that in his absence, Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister, Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
- 8 **agreed** that in the absence of Hon Nicola Grigg, Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women;
- 9 **noted** that the House is not sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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