



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 - November 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Governor-General's Travel to Tonga (CAB-25-SUB-0374 refers)

Title of minute: Overseas Travel: Governor-General - November 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0374 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 TONGA

Proposal

- 1 Cabinet is asked to note that the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, will travel to Tonga from 1 to 5 November 2025 to attend celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Tonga's Constitution.

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 principal purpose of the visit is for the Governor-General to attend celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Tonga's constitution. Her attendance signals the importance New Zealand places on our relationship with Tonga and underscores our commitment to our partnership. The celebration will also mark the 55th anniversary of Tonga's diplomatic ties with New Zealand and provides an opportunity to engage meaningfully with the King and strengthen ties with the Tongan monarchy.

Travel

- 4 The Governor-General will be accompanied on the visit by His Excellency Dr Richard Davies and two Government House staff (the Official Secretary and an Aide-de-Camp) ^{s6(d)} [REDACTED]. The party will travel on commercial flights.

Travel Costs

- 5 The estimated cost of trip is approximately ^{s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)} [REDACTED]. The total cost is 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.
- 6 The expenses of the Protection Service officers will be met from Vote Police.

Consultation

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

Proactive release

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

Administrator of the Government

9 During the absence of the Governor-General from 1 to 5 November 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 5 November 2025 to undertake a visit to Tonga;

10.2 **note** that the Governor-General will be accompanied by His Excellency Dr Richard Davies and two Government House staff (the Official Secretary and an Aide-de-Camp) ^{s6(d)} [redacted];

10.3 **note** that the total cost of the visit is approximately ^{s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)} [redacted];

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 ^{s6(d)} [redacted] will be met from Vote Police;

10.5 **note** that in the absence of the Governor-General from 1 to 5 November 2025 the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, will act as the 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 - November 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 28 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Governor-General will be absent from New Zealand, from 1 to 5 November 2025, to undertake a visit to Tonga to attend celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Tonga's Constitution;
- 2 **noted** that the Governor-General will be accompanied by Dr Richard Davies and two Government House staff;
- 3 **noted** that the total cost of the 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** that the Governor-General will also be accompanied by s6(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 the Administrator of the Government.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet