



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:

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – June 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – June 2025
(CAB-25-SUB-0468 refers)

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – June 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0468 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.



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 – June 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-25-SUB-0468 on his travel, from 17 to 27 June 2025, to:
 - 1.1 Shanghai and Beijing, the People's Republic of China, together with Hon Louise Upston and Hon Mark Mitchell, to undertake bilateral engagements;
 - 1.2 Belgium to undertake bilateral engagements; and
 - 1.3 the Netherlands to attend the Nato Summit and undertake bilateral engagements.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – June 2025

I recommend Cabinet note this report on my travel to China, Belgium and the Netherlands, which took place between 17 and 27 June 2025.

Report

- 2 Hon Louise Upston and Hon Mark Mitchell accompanied me to China. First in Shanghai and then in Beijing, we were able to deliver on the objectives agreed by Cabinet for this travel, namely:

2.1 Advance a bilateral relationship where we engage when our interests align; act to protect and promote our interests; and align with partners:

While in Beijing, we met China's three senior-most political leaders – President Xi, Premier Li and Chairman Zhao – and in Shanghai, the city's Party Secretary Chen. s6(a)

those meetings provided important opportunities both to take forward areas of cooperation like trade, cultural ties and climate change, as well as for each side to air differences in a respectful manner, e.g. on foreign interference, the Pacific, the South China Sea.

2.2 Secure and grow bilateral trade and economic relations in areas consistent with New Zealand's interests: Supported by a 28-person business delegation, we engaged in 16 separate business promotion activities. We announced a series of deals, which were valued in excess of NZ\$1 billion, with many of these benefiting primary producers (e.g. beef, dairy, horticulture) and health/beauty products. The visit also saw the finalisation of a series of bilateral government-to-government initiatives to enhance trade ranging from organics certification to deer velvet.

2.3 Connect our people through promoting tourism and education, and supporting cultural links: In the lead up to and during the visit, we were able to announce a series of initiatives to enhance tourism ties, including simplifying our visa settings. With changes made to allow a Shanghai-Auckland-Buenos Aires flight, the Southern Link was announced during our visit. We participated in a series of events to promote education exports, including a series of new partnerships and promotional events to profile our export education offerings.

- 3 This visit took place amidst an uncertain geopolitical context. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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

4 After China I travelled to Europe, s6(a) [redacted]
[redacted] My principal focus in Brussels and The Hague was on meeting the leaders of the EU institutions, fellow national leaders at the NATO Summit, and on advancing our interests with Belgium and the Netherlands. I was able to deliver against the objectives agreed by Cabinet for this travel, namely:

- 4.1 *Demonstrate New Zealand is a reliable and credible partner with a shared interest in upholding the rules-based system:* In my meetings with the three leaders of the EU institutions, we discussed practical actions we could take to buttress global rules such as using the CPTPP-EU Dialogue to defend the trading system. Through my meeting with President Zelenskyy and participation in the Indo-Pacific Four (IP4) meeting with the NATO Secretary-General, I was able to reiterate New Zealand's condemnation of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, and announced further financial and military support.
- 4.2 *Enhance New Zealand's security by demonstrating our relevance as a strategic partner in the interconnected Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security environment:* While in The Hague, I met formally with seven European leaders and the Canadian Prime Minister, and spoke informally to many more. These discussions focused mainly on our shared security interests. In Brussels, my discussion with the Commission President revealed a willingness to deepen our dialogue on security issues, with a longer-term objective of a Security and Defence Partnership dialogue, an opportunity that officials are now examining.
- 4.3 *Profile New Zealand to high-value European markets as an innovative research and trading partner and an attractive investment destination:* While in Belgium and the Netherlands, I met a series of investors to encourage them to consider investing in New Zealand, I profiled some innovative Kiwi firms (Ohmio and Dawn Aerospace) and supported a large group of New Zealand CEOs visiting the Netherlands to establish connections with their Dutch counterparts.

5 While the other IP4 leaders were unable to attend the NATO Summit s6(a) [redacted]
[redacted] I found attendance on this occasion to be an efficient way to build links with a series of European leaders, notably German Chancellor Merz and French President Macron. I was able to compare notes with fellow leaders on the evolving geopolitical context. The Euro-Atlantic order is under pressure from Russia's invasion of Ukraine s6(a) [redacted]
[redacted] the decision by Allies to boost defence spending to 5% of GDP by

2035 was a critical moment s6(a)

Proactive release

- 6 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04 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

- 7 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister