



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 – August 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – August 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0469 refers).

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – August 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0469 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.



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 – August 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-25-SUB-0469 on his travel, from 4 to 6 August 2025, to Papua New Guinea for a bilateral visit.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

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

I recommend Cabinet note this report on my travel to Papua New Guinea, which took place between 4 and 6 August 2025.

Report

- 1 In the first visit to Papua New Guinea by a New Zealand Prime Minister with an exclusively bilateral focus since 1984, I was able to spotlight our efforts with the largest and most populous of Pacific Islands countries in its 50th year of independence. Against that background, I was able to deliver on the objectives agreed by Cabinet for this travel, namely

1.1 Reiterate at the highest level the importance New Zealand attaches to our relationship with Papua New Guinea as we celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations: With a state banquet hosted in New Zealand's honour and me being granted the rare honour of being the second foreign leader to address PNG's Parliament, a clear message was delivered by both sides about the friendship and respect we have for one another. Building on our history and Pacific connections, PM Marape's Government was restless to modernise our links reflecting a contemporary set of ambitions. s6(a)

we will need to continue to find ways to lean in and support its aspiration to accelerate its economic growth and to become a link between Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

1.2 s6(a) highlight New Zealand's value as a reliable and responsive partner across trade, economic and social development, and the security sector: In my formal bilateral meeting with PM Marape, he was accompanied by eight Ministers, with that an opportunity for a holistic review of all aspects of the relationship, identifying work we can do better to support PNG's economic development, enhance two-way trade and investment links, and strengthen PNG's policing. By visiting New Zealand Army and PNG Defence Force personnel training together and then the site of the eye health hospital being built by New Zealand, we were able to publicly profile the breadth and history of our connections.

1.3 Advance implementation of the New Zealand Papua New Guinea Statement of Partnership, including by announcing progress in economic cooperation: As part of our effort to reflect back to PNG its wish for New Zealand's public and private sectors to support its economic development, we gave this domain some focused attention. I took a small business

delegation to profile and explore deepening our commercial ties. We launched a five-year economic plan of action, committing to a set of meaningful activities to support economic growth across public enterprises, trade, agriculture, fisheries, labour mobility and business ties.

s6(a)

- 2 Combined with PM Marape's visit to New Zealand and Minister Peters visit to Port Moresby for the 50th anniversary celebrations, we have qualitatively stepped-up political engagement in a way that is creating genuine connection (e.g. with PM Marape going out of his way to meet me at Port Moresby airport on a Saturday night as I transited through in June 2024). s6(a)

Proactive release

- 3 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

- 4 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister