



## 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 – October / November 2025**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – October / November 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0471 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – October / November 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0471 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

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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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### Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – October / November 2025

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-25-SUB-0471 on his travel, from 26 October to 2 November 2025, to:
  - 1.1      Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, together with Hon Nicola Grigg, to attend the East Asia Summit and ASEAN-related meetings 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.

Diana Hawker  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

## Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – October & November 2025

I recommend Cabinet note this report on my travel to Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, which took place between 26 October and 2 November 2025.

### Report

- 1 Hon Nicola Grigg accompanied me to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we attended ASEAN-related meetings. Afterwards, I went to the Republic of Korea to attend the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju and joined Hon Todd McClay and Hon Casey Costello who were already participating in APEC Ministerial Meetings. Across these two destinations, we were able to deliver on the objectives agreed by Cabinet for this travel, namely:

*1.1 Promote New Zealand's key interests in the Indo-Pacific, consistent with the Government's Foreign Policy Reset:* Over the past two years we have been seeking to build ballast in an uncertain geostrategic period by extending and deepening our relationships across the Indo-Pacific. To that end, this trip saw us achieve milestones in our partnerships with both the ASEAN grouping and the Republic of Korea. We inked Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships with each, placing us in a select top tier of their partners. We will now need to follow through in implementation.

*1.2 Demonstrate New Zealand's strong support for regional institutions fundamental to our security and economic prosperity:* Small and medium-sized powers do not want a region in which power prevails, and so we depend on the effective operation of regional norms and institutions. At endgame at Head of Government level illustrated our support for institutions like ASEAN, APEC and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) at a time when they are under pressure. The convening power of these regional institutions was also on full display, with each Summit providing a venue to de-escalate economic and political tensions, e.g. via the first US-China Summit of the second Trump Administration and celebrating efforts towards a ceasefire on the Thai-Cambodia border.

*1.3 Deepen relations with key Indo-Pacific counterparts to underscore New Zealand as a trusted, committed, and ambitious partner:* At these two Summits, I was able to meet for the first time with Presidents Trump and Lee, as well as reconnecting with nine of the eleven ASEAN Leaders. Informally, I was able to meet many others, including the new Japanese Prime Minister and Chinese leaders. I also participated in a small group

dinner with other Indo-Pacific leaders, which provided unique insights into the regional strategic context. In both Malaysia and Korea, my programme advanced our export interests, including through an arrangement to support halal exports with Malaysia and by promoting Kiwi businesses in Korea.

*1.4 Ensure New Zealand's voice is heard in Leader-level discussions on contemporary global and regional issues:* At both the East Asia Summit and APEC, I was able to contribute a New Zealand perspective on some of the major geopolitical challenges facing our region (e.g. s6(a) [redacted] respect for the rules), as well as engaging with colleagues on some of the big emerging opportunities (e.g. artificial intelligence, critical minerals).

2 At both Summits, it was apparent that Indo-Pacific countries are grappling with some of the same new realities: s6(a) [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] Russia's war in Ukraine has left it with no constructive role to play.  
s6(a) [redacted]  
[redacted] Amidst this challenging geopolitical context, this trip reaffirmed that our Foreign Policy reset focus – on building ballast through deeper relationships with a wider array of Indo-Pacific partners – is the right one.

**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