



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 - February 2026

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Governor General's Travel to Tokelau (CAB-26-SUB-0012)

Title of minute: Overseas Travel: Governor-General- February 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0012)

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
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S TRAVEL TO TOKELAU

Proposal

- 1 Cabinet is asked to note that the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, will travel to Tokelau via Samoa from 8 to 16 February 2026 to attend celebrations marking the centenary of New Zealand administration of Tokelau.

Purpose

- 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 marking the centenary of New Zealand's administration of Tokelau on 11 February 2026. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

Travel

- 4 The Governor General will be accompanied on the visit by His Excellency Dr Richard Davies, her kaumātua and three staff. NZDF will provide transport and accommodation for the visit to Tokelau aboard HMNZS Canterbury meaning there are minimal costs for this part of the trip. Commercial flights will be used between New Zealand and Samoa. s6(d)

Costs

- 5 The estimated cost of trip is approximately s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv). 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 accompanying 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. 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 the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, will act as Administrator of the Government from 13 to 16 February. Justice France will act as Administrator from 8 to 12 February.

Recommendations

- 10 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 10.1 **note** that the Governor-General will be absent from New Zealand from 8 to 16 February 2026 to undertake a visit to Tokelau via Samoa;
 - 10.2 **note** that the total cost of the visit is approximately s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv);
 - 10.3 **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 the Protection Service officers will be met from Vote Police;
 - 10.4 **note** that in the absence of the Governor-General the Chief Justice will act as the Administrator of the Government from 13 to 16 February. Justice France will act as Administrator from 8 to 12 February.

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 - February 2026

Portfolio Prime Minister

On 2 February 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Governor-General will be absent from New Zealand from 8 to 16 February 2026 to undertake a visit to Tokelau via Samoa;
- 2 **noted** that the Governor-General will be accompanied by Dr Richard Davies, her Kaumātua, three staff, s6(d);
- 3 **noted** that the New Zealand Defence Force will provide transport and accommodation for the visit to Tokelau aboard HMNZS Canterbury, and that commercial flights will be used between New Zealand and Samoa;
- 4 **noted** that the total cost of the visit is approximately s9(2)(f)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv);
- 5 **noted** that:
 - 5.1 the costs of the Governor-General's party 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;
 - 5.2 the costs of the Protection Service Officers will be met from Vote Police;
- 6 **noted** that in the absence of the Governor-General:
 - 6.1 Justice France will act as Administrator of the Government from 8 to 12 February 2026;
 - 6.2 the Chief Justice will act as Administrator from 13 to 16 February 2026.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet