



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 2026

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - June 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0247 refers)

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon - June 2026 (CAB-26-SUB-0247 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 – June 2026

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 27 July 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-26-SUB-0247 on his travel, from 5 to 6 June 2026, to Queensland, Australia to attend the annual Australia – New Zealand Leaders' Meeting, and undertake bilateral engagements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – June 2026

1 I recommend Cabinet note this report on my travel to Queensland, Australia, 5 – 6 June 2026.

Report

2 Australia remains indispensable to New Zealand: it's our only formal ally; our most important economic partner; and home to our largest diaspora. The annual Prime Ministerial meeting is an opportunity to set the tone and strategic ambition for the trans-Tasman relationship. The principal purpose of my visit to Queensland was to attend the annual Australia-New Zealand Leaders' Meeting, which was hosted by the Hon Anthony Albanese.

3 Reflexively, Australia is our natural partner, a sentiment that PM Albanese clearly also feels. Publicly, he says, "Australia has no closer partner than New Zealand. We are family." s6(a)

That makes it incumbent on my Ministers and I to continuously invest in the trans-Tasman relationship. Fifteen New Zealand Ministers have crossed the Tasman to meet their counterparts in the last twelve months, which shows this Government investing in high levels of political connectivity with Canberra. As Prime Minister, I see it as imperative that I maintain a relationship with my Australian counterpart that sets the tone for the wider system. Prime Minister Albanese and I already know each other well and speak regularly, but there is no substitute for sustained time in one another's company. We used our 24 hours together in Queensland to extend our familiarity and affinity.

4 With the Defence Capability Plan delivering an uplift in our spend and a clear vision agreed to operationalise the trans-Tasman Alliance, we have moved into a qualitatively different space on defence and security issues with Australia. There's more trust. There's greater alignment on our shared direction of travel. There's also greater collaboration in pursuit of our shared objectives in the Pacific and beyond. That does not mean everything is perfect, with close communication necessary to ensure that, when Australia is moving at scale and with pace, we are not being left behind.

5 Prime Minister Albanese and I had a good session with business leaders representing the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF). A clear message came from business about the value of trans-Tasman regulatory alignment, with businesses' encouraging the two Governments to ensure harmonisation across sectors and as we develop frameworks for new technologies. Interestingly, for example, businesses also encouraged us to ensure trans-Tasman alignment in policy and regulation around the Artificial Intelligence eco-system (e.g.

data centres, AI safety). At the formal bilateral meeting, I also raised our concerns about the discrimination inherent in the Alcohol Excise Remission Scheme that adversely affects New Zealand brewers and spirits producers.

- 6 While in Brisbane, I met with Queensland Premier Crisafulli, with our discussion showing a high degree of alignment in our two Governments' approaches. During that meeting and in my separate discussions with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Committee Chair, it was apparent Queensland is beginning to roll out a large infrastructure investment programme. This will both support delivery of the 2032 Olympics and futureproof the State. That A\$115 billion-plus pipeline of investment is going to present a huge opportunity for New Zealand companies; we committed to ensuring they are connected into the work programme. The Brisbane Games will also present an opportunity to boost tourism to this part of the world, with spillover benefits for New Zealand.

Proactive release

- 7 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

- 8 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister