



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:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Rt Hon Winston Peters - August / September 2026

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Rt Hon Winston Peters - August / September 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0275 refers)

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Rt Hon Winston Peters (CAB-26-SUB-0275 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 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.



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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Rt Hon Winston Peters – August / September 2026

Portfolios **Prime Minister / Foreign Affairs**

On 24 August 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 2 to 4 September 2026, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 29 August to 3 September 2026, to travel to Palau to attend the 55th annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' week;
- 2 **agreed** that the Prime Minister and the Rt Hon Winston Peters each be accompanied by two members of staff from their respective offices;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Prime Minister's delegation, and up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Minister of Foreign Affairs' delegation, both as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that they will also be accompanied by:
 - 4.1 officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the respective agencies;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose travel costs will be met by them personally;
- 5 **noted** that the Prime Minister will travel via a New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 6 **noted** that the Rt Hon Winston Peters will travel to Palau via a New Zealand Defence Force aircraft and return via a commercial flight;
- 7 **agreed** that in the absence of the Prime Minister:
 - 7.1 Hon David Seymour act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
 - 7.2 Hon Mark Mitchell act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;

- 8 **agreed** that in the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters:
- 8.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 8.2 Hon Casey Costello act as Minister for Racing;
 - 8.3 Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
- 9 **noted** that the House is sitting during their absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Prime Minister

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Rt Hon Winston Peters

- 1 This joint paper seeks Cabinet approval for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to travel to Palau to attend the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Week and undertake bilateral meetings with Pacific counterparts and partner countries.
- 2 The Prime Minister will be travelling from Wednesday 2 September to Friday 4 September (inclusive). The Minister of Foreign Affairs will be travelling from Saturday 29 August to Thursday 3 September 2026 (inclusive).
- 3 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the Minister's travel in-principle.

Purpose of travel to Palau

- 4 The purpose of travel is for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to represent New Zealand at the 55th annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' week in Palau.
- 5 Attendance by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs sends a strong signal on our commitment to the Pacific as we prepare to host the 56th PIF in 2027. Our key objectives for the PIF are:
 - 5.1 Investing in Forum centrality, including through greater regional economic integration;
 - 5.2 Advancing discussions on Pacific regional security priorities; and
 - 5.3 Reinforcing Pacific leadership on climate ambition and resilience.

Outline of proposed visit

- 6 The visit will include the following key engagements:
- 7 Prime Minister:
 - 7.1 The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Retreat;
 - 7.2 Formal dinner with Forum Leaders, hosted by the Forum Secretary General;

7.3 Priority bilateral engagements with other Pacific Islands Forum Leaders; and

7.4 The official closing ceremony.

8 Minister of Foreign Affairs:

8.1 Meetings between Pacific Leaders and Heads of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific; Civil Society and Private Sector; Forum Associate Members, Country Observers and Observer Organisations; and Forum Dialogue Partners; and

8.2 Priority bilateral engagements with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Forum Dialogue Partners.

Delegation

9 The Prime Minister will be accompanied by two staff from his office. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will be accompanied by two staff from his office.

10 Travel costs for members of the Prime Minister's delegation are to be covered by the Prime Minister's Office. Travel costs for the Minister of Foreign Affairs' delegation are to be covered by the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. These would both be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

11 Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will travel as part of the delegation, as well as a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs), in support of the visit objectives. Their costs will be covered by their respective agencies.

12 In addition, New Zealand media will accompany the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs on the visit. Accompanying media will cover their own costs.

13 The Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegation will travel to Palau in a New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) B757 aircraft. This flight will transport Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to Palau: there are no direct commercial flights from most Pacific countries to Palau, and transporting Pacific Leaders is a tangible contribution to Forum unity, which allows the Minister to engage with counterparts in an informal setting. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will return to New Zealand on a commercial flight via the Philippines and Singapore.

14 The Prime Minister and delegation will also travel to and from Palau on an NZDF aircraft.

Travel costs

15 The following is a breakdown of estimated costs covered by the Prime Minister's Office, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the

Executive – Travel. The Department of Internal Affairs is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on its website.

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Hospitality	
Gifts	
Contingency 5%	
Overall travel total	

16 The estimated cost for the Minister of Foreign Affairs' delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights (Return from Palau to Auckland)	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Staff Domestic Transfers	
Accommodation	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals	
Gifts	
Contingency 5%	
Overall travel total	

Acting Ministers

- 17 If travel is approved, in the Prime Minister's absence, Hon David Seymour will act as Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Mark Mitchell will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 18 If travel is approved, in the Minister of Foreign Affairs' absence, Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio; Hon Casey Costello will cover the racing portfolio; and Hon Simeon Brown will cover the rail portfolio.

Proactive release

- 19 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(23)4, on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

20 This paper recommends that Cabinet:

- 20.1 Authorise the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand from 2 September to 4 September 2026 and the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 29 August to 3 September 2026 to travel to Palau to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' week;
- 20.2 Agree that the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister each be accompanied by two staff members from their offices;
- 20.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Prime Minister's delegation, and s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Minister of Foreign Affairs delegation, both as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 20.4 Note that the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs would be met by the respective agencies;
- 20.5 Note that there will be an accompanying media delegation, who will meet their own costs;
- 20.6 Agree that in their absence:
 - 20.6.1 Hon David Seymour will act as Prime Minister
 - 20.6.2 Hon David Seymour will act as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services
 - 20.6.3 Hon Mark Mitchell will act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
 - 20.6.4 Hon Todd McClay will act as Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - 20.6.5 Hon Casey Costello will act as Minister of Racing; and
 - 20.6.6 Hon Simeon Brown will act as Minister for Rail.
- 20.7 Note that the House is sitting during the Prime Minister's absence on Wednesday 2 September and Thursday 3 September, and during the Minister of Foreign Affairs absence, on Tuesday 1 September.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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