



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell, Associate Minister for National Security and Intelligence:

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Mark Mitchell – August 2026

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Mark Mitchell – August 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0305 refers)

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Mark Mitchell – August 2026 (CAB-26-SUB-0305 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
- Section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.



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: Hon Mark Mitchell – August 2026

Portfolio **Associate National Security and Intelligence**

On 21 September 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Mark Mitchell under CAB-26-SUB-0305 on his travel, from 24 to 26 August 2026, to Sydney, Australia to attend the Five Country Ministerial meeting.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Associate Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Mark Mitchell – August 2026

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel from 24 to 26 August 2026, to Australia, in my capacity as Associate Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

Report – Five Country Ministerial

- 1 From 24 to 26 August 2026, I travelled to Sydney, Australia, alongside the Commissioner of Police and officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the New Zealand Intelligence Community, to attend the Five Country Ministerial (FCM) meeting.
- 2 The FCM brought together the home affairs and interior ministers from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the US and the UK. My FCM programme included bilateral meetings with each of my counterparts, and a series of outcome-focussed multilateral discussions on shared national security priorities.

Bilateral meetings

- 3 **Hon Tony Burke (Australia)** hosted this year's FCM. We had a very productive bilateral meeting, s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
- 4 My meeting with **Secretary Markwayne Mullin (US)** was his first formal engagement with the New Zealand Government. Our bilateral meeting discussed s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
- 5 s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
- 6 **Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood (UK)** s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- 7 During my bilateral meeting with **Hon Gary Anandasangaree (Canada)** we had a productive conversation s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Topics covered multilaterally during the FCM meeting

- 8 **Countering Violent Extremism:** We discussed the growing challenge posed by violent extremism driven by mixed and unstable ideologies, rapid online radicalisation, and the increasing role of emerging technologies. s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 9 **Major Event Security:** Drawing on the US experience hosting the FIFA World Cup, Secretary Mullin highlighted the rapidly evolving drone threat s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 10 **Scam Centres and Counter Narcotics:** We discussed the increasing scale, sophistication and damage of scams and fraud. I underlined the importance of public-private collaboration, highlighting the productive work of our Anti-Scam Alliance. s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 11 The discussion on counter-narcotics focused on precursor chemical supply chains and the increasing diversion of illicit drug trafficking routes through the Pacific. My counterparts noted the security, governance and public health impacts of this trend, and reinforced the importance of coordinated international engagement in the region.
- 12 **Artificial Intelligence and National Security:** There was agreement among partners that AI represents both a significant threat enabler and an important operational capability. This topic also drew attention on the importance of balancing economic and security considerations s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 13 **State Threats:** This classified session focused on the use of criminal proxies by state actors to conduct transnational repression and other hostile activities. Discussion reinforced concerns regarding the increasingly blurred lines between state activity, organised crime and foreign interference. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Proactive Release

- 14 This paper will be proactively released, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Mark Mitchell

Associate Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister for Police
Minister for Sport