



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 and Rt Hon Winston Peters – August / September 2026

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Rt Hon Winston Peters – August / September 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0311 refers)

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Rt Hon Winston Peters – 29 August to 4 September 2026 (CAB-26-SUB-0311 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 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.



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 and Rt Hon Winston Peters – August / September 2026

Portfolios **Prime Minister / Foreign Affairs**

On 21 September 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister and the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-26-SUB-0311 on their respective travel, between 29 August and 4 September 2026, to Koror, Palau to attend the 55th annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' week.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Prime Minister

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Rt Hon Winston Peters
– 29 August to 4 September 2026**

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on travel to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meetings (PIFLM) in Koror, Palau. The Foreign Minister and Prime Minister respectively had programmes in Palau from 29 August to 1 September, and 2 to 3 September.

Report

- 2 The purpose of the travel was to enable senior New Zealand participation in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meetings, hosted by Palau, capping off three years of significant investment in the Forum and New Zealand's Pacific relationships. The visits included numerous engagements for the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs with Forum Members and Partners.
- 3 New Zealand's membership of the Pacific Islands Forum is one of our most important. A strong and unified Forum helps our region to navigate our collective challenges, and the Forum is increasingly helping shape our strategic environment. As we prepare to host the 56th Forum Leaders Meeting in 2026, it is in New Zealand's strategic interest to be an active and engaged Forum Member.
- 4 The PIFLM was held 31 August to 3 September and was attended by 13 Forum Leaders and multiple senior Ministers. Kiribati was the only Member not represented at the political level. New Zealand's transport via NZDF asset of 13 Pacific delegations to, and 14 from, Palau provided a substantial contribution to the meeting's success and was warmly welcomed by Palau President Whipps. This was the third year in a row that we have provided transport to support broad attendance, an action which has become synonymous with New Zealand's investment in Pacific regionalism and Forum centrality. ^{s9(2)(a)}

- 5 The Prime Minister attended the Forum Leaders Retreat, the Leaders Dinner and official Closing Ceremony. During the Retreat, Leaders progressed key issues of interest to New Zealand including concluding the Forum Dialogue Partnerships Mechanism ^{s6(a)}

Achieving an outcome on Partnerships was important in advance of our own hosting, ^{s6(a)}

- 6 As the next host, New Zealand joined the Forum Troika in Palau and the Prime Minister participated in the post-Retreat Troika media stand up. Alongside the formal agenda, the Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Marape, an extensive conversation with Palau President Whipps, and engagements with all other Forum Members.
- 7 The Minister of Foreign Affairs attended formal programme and side events including the Opening Ceremony, Polynesian Leaders Group Lunch, Partners Dialogue and an Ocean Roundtable and Reception hosted by President Whipps. The Minister delivered a speech at the Ocean Reception, focused on attracting public and private investment in the Pacific, including through the Pacific Resilience Facility, and highlighted New Zealand's support for sustainable ocean management initiatives. Alongside the Cook Islands and the United States, the Minister announced US\$60 million (approx. NZ\$100 million) in joint funding to upgrade Omoka Port in the Cook Islands' Penrhyn atoll. The Minister also welcomed the United States' announcement to contribute US\$60 million in energy support to the Pacific, after raising the issue with the Secretary of State in April.
- 8 Across three days, the Minister held formal bilateral meetings with the Cook Islands, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Naoero, Norway, Palau, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States and Vanuatu. The Minister also held informal pull-asides with a further 13 Forum Members and Partners.
- 9 New Zealand supported the advancement of key regional policy issues for the Forum including endorsing the Leaders Ocean Statement, a regional Kava Declaration, Pacific Digital and Artificial Intelligence Technology Principles, the BELAU Declaration for Urgent and Inclusive Climate Action to Keep 1.5°C Within Reach and the Pacific Pact on Gender and Climate Action, and approving terms of reference for a Renewable Energy Commissioner. Leaders also encouraged further consideration of Solomon Islands' proposal for a regional security treaty.
- 10 As the last international visit for both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in this term of Parliament, New Zealand's strong presence demonstrated our commitment to the Forum, reflected our investment in the region over the past three years, and underlined the seriousness with which we regard our forthcoming hosting.

Proactive release

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

Recommendation

- 12 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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