

## HON PEENI HENARE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

### Ministerial Overseas Travel Peeni Henare

January 2023

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Peeni Henare's travel to Australia to attend the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' meeting and Tonga to attend the South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting, including the associated minutes of decision.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the October 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0429 and CAB-22-MIN-0429]
- the December 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0556 and CAB-22-MIN-0556]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: [www.defence.govt.nz/publications](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications).

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document.

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]



# 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: Hon Peeni Henare

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 3 October 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Peeni Henare from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being approved, from 16 to 20 October 2022, to travel to:
  - 1.1      Australia to attend the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers meeting;
  - 1.2      Tonga to attend the South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$13,668 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence whose travel costs will met by their departments;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Andrew Little act as Minister of Defence;
  - 5.2      Hon Willie Jackson act as Minister for Whānau Ora;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Australia and the Kingdom of Tonga to meet with my Australian counterpart and attend the South Pacific Defence Minister's Meeting (SPDDM) in Tonga.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. Leave from Parliament has been sought.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The proposed travel programme includes to Australia from 16 –17 October and Tonga from 17 – 20 October.
- 4 If you approve my travel, I plan to depart New Zealand on Sunday 16 October and return on Thursday 20 October. Travel will be by commercial aircraft, except between Australia and Tonga, where I will travel alongside the Australian Minister of Defence on a Royal Australian Air Force aircraft.

#### *Australia (16 – 17 October)*

- 5 The purpose of my travel to Australia is to attend the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers meeting with my counterpart, Australian Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister, Richard Marles. The meeting will take place on 17 October.
- 6 This meeting will provide me the opportunity to conduct a deep dive on Australia and New Zealand bilateral defence matters. It will also allow me to consider the matters that challenge Australia and New Zealand's shared security interests, and to set the strategic objectives for our relationship over the next 12 months.
- 7 Attending this meeting will allow me to enhance my working relationship with the Australian Minister of Defence and gain a deeper understanding of the priorities he has for his Defence portfolio.
- 8 Additionally, there is an opportunity for me to visit a lower decile school in Geelong that teaches in both English and te reo with Minister Marles.

#### *Tonga (17 – 20 October)*

- 9 I will then travel to Tonga, where I will attend the South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting (SPDMM) alongside counterparts from Australia, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, France and Chile. SPDMM is the only formal setting

in which the Pacific region's defence ministers meet together and is a valuable mechanism in the Pacific regional security architecture. Representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan also attend as observers.

- 10 This will be the first time we have met as a group in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide me the opportunity to increase my understanding of individual countries' defence priorities and with insight into how Pacific militaries want to develop their forces. Commitments made at SPDMM influence bilateral defence engagement and create regular touchpoints for future discussion.
- 11 In addition to the meeting proper, there will also be opportunities to engage with my counterparts in individual bilateral meetings. The two day programme would also include a visit to sites around the island which were affected by the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption earlier this year.

### Ministerial Party

- 12 I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force.
- 13 I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force. Their costs would be met from the departmental budgets.

### Travel Costs

- 14 Indicative travel costs for my staff member and I are:

Airfares and taxes:	\$ 4,000
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$ 6,500
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 1,925
Contingency (@10%):	\$ 1,243
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 13,668</b>

### Acting Ministers

- 15 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

**Defence:** Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
**Whānau Ora:** Hon Willie Jackson

### Proactive release

- 16 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
  - 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 16 to 20 October to travel to Australia and the Kingdom of Tonga.
  - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force;
  - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$ 13,668 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
  - 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence whose travel costs will met by their departments;
  - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
    - 1.5.1 Hon Nanaia Mahuta will be Acting Minister of Defence; and
    - 1.5.2 Hon Willie Jackson will be Acting Minister for Whānau Ora.
  - 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 5 December 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Peeni Henare under CAB-22-SUB-0556 on his travel, from 16 to 20 October 2022, to:

- 1            Melbourne, Australia for bilateral discussions;
- 2            Tonga to attend the Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Australia (Melbourne) and Tonga from 16 October to 20 October 2022 to conduct Defence Ministers' meetings.

#### Report

##### Australia

1 The purpose of my visit to Australia was to conduct the first formal, in-person Australia – New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting with my Australian counterpart Hon Richard Marles. This meeting was intentionally set up to be a 'first principles deep dive' on the Australia – New Zealand Defence relationship

2 The meeting demonstrated good rapport between Minister Marles and myself, and we were able to engage in wide-ranging discussions that reflected a genuine desire to enhance Australia and New Zealand's defence partnership.

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5 Finally, my visit included a visit with Minister Marles to a primary school in Geelong. The school offers a te reo Māori language programme, and I was able to see a class in action.

##### Tonga

6 Following my visit to Australia, I travelled to Tonga to take part in the South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting (SPDMM). This was the first time Defence Ministers from the Pacific region met as a group in person since the COVID-19 pandemic. The two day programme provided me valuable opportunities to engage with my Pacific counterparts, and like-minded partners with whom we work closely in the region, on a wide range of complex challenges faced by militaries in the region.

7 I co-led a discussion with France on non-traditional security challenges, in particular how the impacts of climate change are intersecting with security issues across the region. I used this as an opportunity to provide an update on the progress of the New Zealand-led publication on how non-traditional security challenges in the Boe Declaration are being addressed by the militaries of the SPDMM, one of the key outcomes from last year's meeting.

8 Tonga shared lessons learnt from the response to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption, and identified some areas to improve coordination and operation going forward. In line with this, a set of regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) standard operating procedures were endorsed, which are designed to guide the way militaries of the Pacific come together in response to a disaster in the region.

9 I also led an agenda item on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), where I reaffirmed New Zealand's strong commitment to WPS and agreed to reinvigorate the outcomes of the WPS Security Summit held in Samoa in 2019. I updated delegates on the progress on some of the key initiatives Defence is undertaking in this space.

10 s6(a) [Redacted]

11 s6(a) [Redacted]

12 It was agreed that New Zealand would host the next iteration of the Future Leaders' Summit on Security in the South Pacific in 2023. The purpose of this Summit is to bring young leaders – military officers and defence officials – together to discuss substantive defence and security issues facing the region, showcase whole-of-government approaches to resolving these problems, and to develop professional skills.

13 During SPDMM, I undertook bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Tonga and Minister for His Majesty's Armed Forces, Hon Hu'akavameiliku and Papua New Guinea Chief of Defence Force, Major General Mark Goina.

Proactive release

14 I propose to proactively release this paper within 30 business days. Proactive release will be subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence