



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Judith Collins KC | Portfolio | Space |
| Title of Cabinet paper | Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – April 2025 | Date to be published | 9 July 2025 |

List of documents that have been proactively released

| Date | Title | Author |
|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
| March 2025 | Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – April 2025 | Office of the Minister for Space |
| 24 March 2025 | Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – April 2025 CAB-25-MIN-0078 Minute | Cabinet Office |
| May 2025 | Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – April 2025 | Office of the Minister for Space |
| 26 May 2025 | Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – April 2025 CAB-25-MIN-0173 Minute | Cabinet Office |

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld as it is out of scope.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Office of the Minister for Space

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – April 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to U.S. cities of Colorado Springs and Denver in April 2025.

Report

- 1 I travelled to the United States from 8 to 10 April 2025 in my capacity as Minister for Space to promote the New Zealand aerospace sector and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Governor of Colorado on behalf of Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology.

Space Symposium, Colorado Springs

- 2 I attended the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, one of the largest and most important international space events, with over 10,000 attendees. The Symposium, which has a prominent defence focus, provided a timely opportunity for me to highlight the New Zealand Government's step-change in spending on defence capability and underscore the rapid growth of the New Zealand Space Sector.
- 3 I was a featured speaker at the Space Symposium where I underscored the New Zealand Government's aim of doubling the size of New Zealand space and advanced aviation sector by 2030 and highlighted the advantages of carrying out space activities from New Zealand.
- 4 I visited the New Zealand Space Agency's (MBIE) first ever exhibition booth at the Space Symposium. The booth received a large number of visitors from across the international space community and provided an opportunity to promote New Zealand's space capabilities and the advantages of undertaking space activities in New Zealand.
- 5 I met with the Acting NASA Administration, Janet Petro, and other senior NASA officials, where I emphasised the strong and deepening relationship between New Zealand and NASA. I also invited NASA officials to visit New Zealand, highlighting the opportunity to attend the New Zealand Aerospace Summit in October 2025.
- 6 At the Symposium I hosted a New Zealand Reception with over 100 attendees from across overseas governments and space agencies, international space companies, and New Zealand space companies. During the reception I emphasised the importance of international partnerships to New Zealand and met with space agency heads and other high-profile guests from the global space sector.

Memorandum of Cooperation with the State of Colorado

IN-CONFIDENCE

- 7 When I visited Denver in 2024 as Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology I met with Colorado Governor Jared Polis and we agreed to develop a Memorandum of Cooperation between the State of Colorado and New Zealand.
- 8 At the Space Symposium 2025, I met with Governor Polis again and we signed the Memorandum of Cooperation that encourages cooperation on Science, Innovation and Technology on behalf of Hon Dr Shane Reti. The Memorandum of Cooperation seeks to increase bilateral foreign direct investment, develop research, strengthen company exchanges, and promote regional technology hubs and innovation ecosystems that benefit Colorado and New Zealand.
- 9 This is New Zealand's second state-level Memorandum of Cooperation with the U.S. and provides a formal architecture to help strengthen New Zealand's already significant economic relationship with Colorado. Over 40 New Zealand businesses have a presence in Colorado, and in 2023 New Zealand was the sixth largest source of foreign direct investment into Colorado. As part of strengthening these ties we discussed establishing direct flights between New Zealand and Colorado.

Denver, Colorado

- 10 In Denver I met with New Zealander Dr Andrew C. Wilson Chief of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Quantum Physics Division and the lead for the quantum information science program at NIST. We discussed how U.S. government priorities were now aligned with development in AI, quantum and nuclear. I noted the work of the Science System Advisory Group and have connected Dr Wilson with Hon Dr Shane Reti to continue engagement on the Science Reforms work programme.
- 11 I met with the Mayor of Denver, Mike Johnson where we discussed export sectors, agriculture, and tourism and raised mine and Governor Polis' shared interest in establishing direct flights between New Zealand and Colorado.

Proactive release

- 12 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18)4 on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister for Space