



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Paul Goldsmith	Portfolio	Media and Communications
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel - Hon Paul Goldsmith - August 2025	Date to be published	20 October 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
21 July 2025	Proposed Overseas Travel - Hon Paul Goldsmith - August 2025	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
21 July 2025	Proposed Overseas Travel - Hon Paul Goldsmith - August 2025 CAB-25-MIN-0244 Minute	Cabinet Office
8 September 2025	Report on Overseas Travel - Hon Paul Goldsmith - August 2025	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
8 September 2025	Report on Overseas Travel - Hon Paul Goldsmith - August 2025 CAB-25-MIN-0302 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 for the reason of national security or defence and international relations.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Media and Communications

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Paul Goldsmith – August 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Suva, Fiji from 6 to 9 August 2025, to attend the second Pacific Island Nations Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministers Dialogue in my capacity as Minister for Media and Communications.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The Pacific Island Nations ICT Ministers Dialogue is a regional forum where ICT ministers from Pacific countries collaborate to advance digital transformation, with a focus on adopting an action plan which implements the Lagatoi Declaration. The Dialogue is scheduled for 8 August.
- 4 A central focus of the Dialogue is the implementation of an action plan aligned with the Lagatoi Declaration, which outlines a shared vision for a well-connected, secure and prosperous Pacific region. New Zealand is a signatory to the Lagatoi Declaration and has actively participated in related regional discussions since 2023.
- 5 I am advised that the Pacific Island Nations ICT Ministers Dialogue will become increasingly active and important, as technology and telecommunications advance in the Pacific region. [redacted] National security or defence [redacted] Ministerial attendance underscores the importance we place on our relationships with participating nations [redacted] National security or defence [redacted]
- 6 New Zealand continues to be highly ranked internationally for our connectivity infrastructure, such as our world leading Ultra-Fast Broadband fibre optic network. As Minister for Media and Communications, attendance at the Dialogue provides an opportunity to share out connectivity experiences internationally, demonstrating how our connectivity investment has supported economic growth through the country.
- 7 As technology changes, such as the introduction of satellite connections and the shutdown of 3G mobile networks in early 2026, it is important that I continue to engage with international counterparts to share knowledge and consider what may be next for telecommunications in New Zealand.

- 8 Whilst in Fiji, I plan to conduct meetings with Ministerial counterparts and other countries representatives.

Ministerial Party

- 9 I propose my travelling party include one of my Ministerial Advisors and one official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).
- 10 Two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also travel to Fiji to attend the Pacific ICT Senior Officials Dialogue, alongside the Ministerial Dialogue. Costs related to travelling officials will be met by their respective agencies.

Travel Costs

- 11 The indicative costs of travel for this trip is **\$12,390**. This will be charged to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel, made up as follows:

Airfares:	\$7500
Accommodation:	\$2800
Incidentals:	\$1500
Contingency (5%):	\$590
Total:	\$12,390

Acting Ministers

- 12 I note that the House is not sitting during my absence. I propose that the following colleagues act during my absence. This is subject to final confirmation.
- 12.1 Hon Dr Shane Reti – Arts, Culture and Heritage
- 12.2 Hon Judith Collins KC – Justice
- 12.3 Hon Chris Bishop – Media and Communications
- 12.4 Hon Chris Penk – Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Proactive release

- 13 I intend to proactively release this paper within 30 business days of final decisions taken by Cabinet, subject to consideration of any redactions that would be justified if the information has been requested under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, from 6 August 2025 to 9 August 2025 to travel to Suva, Fiji to attend the second Pacific Island Nations Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministers

Dialogue and to engage in bilateral meetings with Ministerial counterparts;

- 1.2 **agree** that I be accompanied by one member of my staff,
- 1.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$12,390 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 a senior official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 1.5 **note** officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be in attendance for Senior Officials' meetings, as part of the Dialogue;
- 1.6 **agree** that in my absence, the following colleagues will act in my portfolios:
 - 1.6.1 Hon Dr Shane Reti – Arts, Culture and Heritage
 - 1.6.2 Hon Judith Collins KC – Justice
 - 1.6.3 Hon Chris Bishop – Media and Communications
 - 1.6.4 Hon Chris Penk – Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
- 1.7 **note** that the House is not sitting during my absence;
- 1.8 **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Media and Communications