



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Judith Collins, KC	Portfolio	Space
Title of Cabinet paper	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – September/ October 2025	Date to be published	6 March 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
March 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – September/ October 2025	Office of the Minister for Space
2 March 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – September/ October 2025 CAB-26-MIN-0056 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO

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 reasons of confidential advice to government and national security or defence.

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Office of the Minister for Space

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – September/October 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Sydney in September/October 2025.

Report

- 1 I travelled to Sydney from 27 September – 2 October 2025 in my capacity as Minister for Space, Minister of Defence and the Minister Responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau.

International Astronautical Congress

- 2 I attended the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Sydney, one of the largest and most significant international space events, attracting over 7,500 attendees. The IAC provided an opportunity to connect with our space partners and showcase the strengths of the New Zealand space sector and its opportunities to a global audience. I was accompanied by 20 New Zealand space organisations, forming the largest-ever New Zealand delegation to the IAC.
- 3 At the IAC Ministers and Members of Parliament meeting, I announced additional New Zealand investment to support the continuation of a research and development partnership between the New Zealand Space Agency and the Australasian Space Innovation Institute and other research partners.
- 4 I delivered remarks at an event celebrating the launch of the Australasian Space Innovation Institute, the successor to the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, which has partnered with the New Zealand Space Agency for several years. I highlighted the strong space relationship between Australia and New Zealand and the innovation we aim to foster through our ongoing research and development partnership.
- 5 The New Zealand Space Agency and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise hosted an exhibition pavilion featuring New Zealand space organisations as co-exhibitors. The pavilion attracted significant visitor interest and showcased New Zealand as a prime location for space activity. An informal networking reception, 'Kiwi Hour,' was held at the pavilion and drew over 100 guests.
- 6 I hosted a formal reception for close partners and VIPs from the space sector. During the event, I underscored the importance of international partnerships to New Zealand's continued success in space and engaged with space agency heads and other high-profile guests.

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7 Confidential advice to Government

8 The IAC offered valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships with key space partners and establish new connections. I met with the European Space Agency (ESA), where we agreed to begin negotiations on an arrangement to enhance cooperation between ESA and New Zealand. I also met with Dr Silke Launert (Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space) and the German Space Agency (DLR) to discuss continuing our space research partnership with Germany. Additionally, I connected with Seraphim Capital, the world's only venture capital fund dedicated exclusively to the space.

Defence engagements

9 While in Sydney, I met with my counterpart Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles for an informal Defence Ministers' meeting. This meeting provided us with a valuable opportunity to discuss the progress made over the past 12 months with regards to developing a more integrated 'ANZAC' force, and to consider how we may further develop this.

10 Following our meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Marles and I toured the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base, where we embarked the HMAS Arunta (an ANZAC-class frigate of the Royal Australian Navy) and saw an MH60R Seahawk maritime helicopter. As we continue to work closely with Australia on capability plans, this tour provided a valuable opportunity to witness opportunities in interoperable capabilities.

National security or defence

12 A full list of my engagements is provided in Annex A.

Proactive release

13 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, Minister of Defence, Minister Responsible for the Government
Communications Security Bureau

Annex A: List of engagements

- International Astronautical Congress Ministers and Members of Parliament Meeting – delivered opening remarks
- Meeting with the Director General of the European Space Agency - Dr Josef Aschbacher
- NASA reception event attended by Acting NASA Administrator Sean Duffy
- International Astronautical Federation VIP Luncheon
- Meeting with Dr Silke Launert - Germany Parliamentary State Secretary, Dr Walther Pelzer – Head of the German Space Agency (DLR), and Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla – Chair of the Executive Board of DLR
- SmartSat 2.0 launch event – delivered remarks
- Tour of Ocius Technology
- Confidential advice to Government
- Meeting with Seraphim Capital
- New Zealand pavilion networking event
- New South Wales Governor's VIP reception event
- Meeting with Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Richard Marles
- Australia – New Zealand bilateral defence meeting
- Tour of HMAS Arunta
- MH60R Seahawk presentation
- National security or defence
- New Zealand International Astronautical Congress reception event