



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	Date to be published	26 May 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
February 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
2 February 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0017 Minute	Cabinet Office
April 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
7 April 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0104 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 reasons of free and frank opinions, international relations and confidential advice to government.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Universities
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New Delhi, India, from 14 February to 21 February to attend the AI Impact Summit.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of this travel is to represent New Zealand at the AI Impact Summit, the world's foremost global forum on AI issues, in New Delhi, India, from 19-20 February and to undertake bilateral engagements related to my Science, Innovation and Technology and Universities portfolios.

AI Impact Summit

- 4 The Summit brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers from around 100 countries to examine both the opportunities and challenges of AI. As the fourth event in the global AI Summit series (following Bletchley 2023, Seoul 2024, and Paris 2025, where New Zealand had no Ministerial representation), it offers a platform to showcase New Zealand's strengths in AI research, innovation, and governance.
- 5 While previous Summits focused on AI guardrails and global norms, the AI Impact Summit will centre on how AI can drive economic growth. It is also the first Summit hosted in the Global South Free and frank opinions [redacted] aligning the event closely with New Zealand's economic and diplomatic interests.
- 6 My attendance will reinforce New Zealand's commitment to international collaboration and responsible AI development, as outlined in *New Zealand's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with confidence*. It will also enable direct engagement with global AI leaders on ethical, regulatory, and infrastructure issues, and on realising the economic benefits of AI in support of the *Going for Growth* agenda, while managing associated risks.
- 7 I understand that so far approximately ten Heads of States or Heads of Government will be in attendance, and around 25-30 member states will be represented at Ministerial level. This will be the first time New Zealand is represented at the Summit at Ministerial level.

8 During the visit I will also promote opportunities for collaboration between New Zealand and other attending countries in research, education, and technology transfer, Confidential advice to Government

9 In my capacity as Minister of Science, Innovation and Employment, I will highlight the Government's science and innovation priorities, including recent system reforms and the establishment of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology (NZIAT). I intend to meet with Indian counterparts—including the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology and key science agencies—to raise the profile of New Zealand's AI sector and reaffirm our commitment to ethical and inclusive technology development.

Other engagements

10 In my capacity as Minister for Universities I also intend to use the visit to promote opportunities with respect to New Zealand's international education sector. Indian students are the second largest group studying with New Zealand, and international education is a significant export earner in our trade relationship with India. I will use the visit to further implement the recently signed Education Cooperation Arrangement with India, promote opportunities to deepen university partnerships, and explore transnational education opportunities.

11 I intend to seek a meeting with the Indian Minister of State for Science and Technology to build relationships and begin early conversations on how New Zealand and India might collaborate in science. I will visit the Indian Institute of Technology, and meet with Deans, the New Zealand Centre (a research and education hub established by New Zealand's eight universities), the Research and Innovation Park, and the Centre of Excellence for AI in Health Care.

12 I also intend to seek a meeting with the Union Minister of Education, Confidential advice to Government to promote New Zealand as a high-quality education destination and partner of choice, aligning with the International Education *Going for Growth* plan.

Ministerial Party

13 I will be accompanied by one member of staff from my office. Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will accompany the delegation. All costs for the Departmental officials will be covered from within the Ministries' baseline budgets.

Travel Costs

14 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$ 18,147.00
Accommodation:	\$ 13,635.00

Hospitality	\$ 1,000.00
Gifts and miscellaneous	\$ 500.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,664.00
Total: \$ (rounded up to nearest \$)	\$ 34,946.00

Acting Ministers

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

Hon Chris Penk - Science, Innovation and Technology

Hon Mark Mitchell - Pacific Peoples

Hon Erica Stanford - Universities

Hon Louise Upston - Statistics

Proactive release

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

Recommendations

1 This paper recommends that Cabinet:

1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 14 February to 21 February to travel to New Delhi, India, to attend the AI Impact Summit;

1.2 **agree** that I be accompanied by one member of my staff.

1.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$34,946.00 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 Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

1.5 **agree** that in my absence:

1.5.1 Hon Chris Penk - Science, Innovation and Technology

1.5.2 Hon Mark Mitchell - Pacific Peoples

1.5.3 Hon Erica Stanford - Universities

1.5.4 Hon Louise Upston - Statistics

1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Minister for Universities