

## HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

### Ministerial Overseas Travel 30-05-2019 to 03-06-2019 – Release of Cabinet Material

October 2019

This publication provides Cabinet documents regarding the proposal, and the report for Hon Ron Mark on his travel, from 30 May to 3 June 2019, to Singapore to attend the 2019 Shangri-La Dialogue.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the May 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-19-MIN-0204]
- the associated Cabinet paper *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Singapore – 30 May to 3 June 2019* [CAB-19-SUB-0204]
- the August 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-19-MIN-0400]
- the associated Cabinet paper *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark; Singapore 30 May to 3 June* [CAB-19-SUB-0400]

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. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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

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*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.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 6 May 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, from the evening of 30 May to 3 June 2019, to travel to Singapore to attend the Institute for Strategic Studies' Shangri-La Dialogue;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$14,879 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 4.1      the Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans from 30 May to 2 June 2019;
  - 4.2      Hon Tracey Martin act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans on 3 June 2019;
- 5        **noted** that the House is not sitting in the period of his absence.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**  
Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Singapore – 30 May to 3 June 2019**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue in my capacity as the Minister of Defence.
2. The purpose of my travel is to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue. The Shangri-La Dialogue is the primary platform for developing and discussing effective public policy on the security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. I have attached a copy of the Dialogue programme.
3. One of the primary advantages of the Shangri-La Dialogue is that it provides an opportunity for me to meet with a number of defence counterparts from around the region. In particular, I will be seeking meetings with counterparts from countries including Australia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom. I will also be meeting with the Five Power Defence Arrangement grouping.
4. There is also a strong Defence Industry presence at the Dialogue. I am proposing to meet with the President of Lockheed Martin to discuss our Frigate Systems upgrade programme and with the President of Boeing to discuss the P8 procurement.
5. I will be away from New Zealand from late evening on Thursday 30 May until midday Monday 3 June 2018.
6. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will occur at the end of a sitting week.
7. Travel will be via commercial transport.

## Delegation Details

8. I propose to travel with one staff member from my office. I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force (funded by Defence).

## Estimated Costs

9. Indicative costs for this travel are:

<u>Minister of Defence and one staff</u>	
Airfares and Taxes	\$ 11,270
Accommodation, meals, transport	\$ 2,700
Receptions/hospitality, gifts	\$ 200
Contingency (@5%)	\$ 708.50
Total	\$14,878.50

## Acting Ministers

10. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios. Hon Tracey Martin will act until midday on 3 June following the Rt Hon Winston Peters' departure for the Pacific mission.

## Recommendations

11. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:
- authorise** his absence from New Zealand from the evening of 30 May to 3 June 2019 to travel to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue;
  - agree** that the Minister be accompanied by one member of his office staff;
  - approve** the expenditure of \$14,878.50 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and

- d) **agree** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios from the evening of 30 May until 2 June and the Hon Tracey Martin will act until midday on 3 June.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 12 August 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Ron Mark under CAB-19-SUB-0400 on his travel, from 30 May to 3 June 2019, to Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Martin Bell  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Released by the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK; SINGAPORE 30 MAY TO 3 JUNE**

**Proposal**

1. That Cabinet note the report on my attendance at Shangri-La Dialogue from 30 May to 3 June 2019.

**Travel report**

2. From 30 May to 3 June I travelled to Singapore to attend the 18th Shangri-La Dialogue. The annual Dialogue is the primary platform for developing and discussing effective public policy on the security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. This year's Dialogue was attended by 28 plus ministers and included representation from 56 nationalities.

3.



4. A notable difference from previous Dialogues was the elevated focus on the South Pacific, with the Dialogue including a dedicated Simultaneous Special Session on the South Pacific. Dame Meg Taylor was a panellist at the Special Session alongside Admiral Philip Davidson, Commander US Indo Pacific Command; Frances Adamson, Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Alice Guitton, Director General, International Relations and Strategy, French Ministry of the Armed Forces. Key topics canvassed during the discussion included climate change, transnational crime and geostrategic competition.

5. I addressed the forum at the concluding plenary session. The topic for this session was Ensuring a Resilient and Stable Region. Through my remarks, I used the community, nation, world framework, as articulated in the Strategic Defence Policy Statement, to illustrate how we can collectively work towards long-term stability in relations among states in our region. I emphasised the need to build better and stronger links between our communities and nations as collectively, we are stronger in the face of regional and global challenges.

6. During the concluding plenary session I also took the opportunity to encourage the organisers of the Dialogue to maintain a focus on the South Pacific at

future Dialogues. While no firm commitment was made, Dr Chipman from the International Institute for Strategic Studies did acknowledge my request and promised to look at including the South Pacific as a standing item in the future.

### **Bilateral meetings**

7. As part of my Shangri-La Dialogue programme, I undertook 17 bilateral meetings. These meetings provided an important opportunity to convey New Zealand's national interests and key policy documents including the Strategic Defence Policy Statement, the Climate Change Defence Assessment and foreshadowing the revised Defence Capability Plan.

8. The meetings were also an opportunity to meet and build rapport with new counterparts including the new Australian Minister of Defence Lynda Reynolds and the then new UK Secretary of Defence Penny Mordaunt. I also met for the first time with the Dame Meg Taylor and my counterpart from Timor-Leste Brigadier General Filomeno da Paixão de Jesus.

### **Summary**

9. The annual Shangri-La Dialogue continues to be a worthwhile event for New Zealand to attend. The rapport I have established with key counterparts through my attendance at the last two Dialogues has provided a positive platform from which to promote New Zealand's key concerns, including the South Pacific and climate change. As an example, at the final ministerial luncheon I was invited by the Minister of Defence from Singapore to lead the roundtable discussion on the security implications of climate change – a valuable opportunity to promote New Zealand's thought leadership in this area.

### **Proactive Release**

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

### **Recommendations**

11. I recommend that Cabinet:

**Note** this report.

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**