

HON PEENI HENARE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel Hon Peeni Henare

December 2022

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Peeni Henare's travel to Solomon Islands in August 2022 as part of the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Guadalcanal, including the associated minutes of decisions. Press releases by the Minister of Defence regarding his travel are available from the Beehive website:

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/minister-defence-attend-guadalcanal-commemorations-solomon-islands

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the August 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0294 and CAB-22-MIN-0294]
- the September 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0406 and CAB-22-MIN-0406]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

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.

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

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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

Portfolio **Defence**

On 27 September 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Peeni Henare under CAB-22-SUB-0406 on his travel, from 6 to 9 August 2022, to the Solomon Islands to attend the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Solomon Islands from 6 to 9 August 2022 to attend the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Report

- 1 The commemorations were attended by high-profile delegations from the United States, Australia and Japan, with over 200 people arriving in Honiara for the weekend's events. Senior Solomon Islands Government officials were present throughout, though Prime Minister Sogavare did not attend the public commemorations. The Battle of Guadalcanal events marked a significant point in World War II history, with Solomon Islands central to some of the Pacific region's most momentous military battles between Allied Forces and Japan.
- 2 Remarks from senior officials and heads of delegation at the commemoration events centred on the considerable human cost of the conflict from all parties. Speakers acknowledged the impact on the people and land of Solomon Islands – including the ongoing impact of unexploded ordnance. Looking forward, partners affirmed their shared values, noting the importance of former combatants having become steadfast friends, and the need to continue working together to address global challenges. Both the US and Solomon Islands representatives spoke of a strong partnership between the two countries in their remarks at the US Memorial Service, and welcomed the re-energising of the US presence in the region.
- 3 Outside of the commemorations, I undertook bilateral calls with my Solomon Islands counterpart, Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services Anthony Veke, and US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. I also visited the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Honiara High School, and met with New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and New Zealand Police (NZP) personnel currently deployed to the Solomon Islands International Assistance Force (SIAF).

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s6(a)

s6(a)

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Proactive release

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

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

Portfolio **Defence**

On 1 August 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Peeni Henare from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 9 August 2022 to travel to Solomon Islands to attend the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Guadalcanal campaign;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by three members of staff, two of whom will have their travel costs met by the Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$10,560 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that the Ministerial party will be accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 5 **noted** that the travel costs of the delegation will be met by their departments;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Minister of Defence
 - 6.2 Hon Willie Jackson act as Minister for Whānau Ora;
- 7 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Solomon Islands from 6 to 9 August 2022. Travel to and from Solomon Islands will be by RNZAF C-130 aircraft.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my travel is to lead the New Zealand delegation attending the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Guadalcanal campaign (primarily scheduled for 7 to 8 August). The commemoration provides a way to pay respect to the service and sacrifice of all those who fought in Guadalcanal and the wider campaign in the Solomon Islands during World War Two, including the New Zealand forces deployed to the area during the war.
- 4 The New Zealand Defence Force is deploying a tri-Service contingent, led by Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, to participate in the 80th anniversary commemorations. Ministers and senior officials from partner nations will also be in attendance at the commemorations, including the United States Deputy Secretary of State, Japanese Vice-Minister of Defence, and Australian Minister of the Pacific and International Development.
- 5 Outside of the Guadalcanal Commemorations, a visit to Solomon Islands would also allow me to build on my relationship with Minister Anthony Veke (Minister for National Security and Correctional Services), who I had a bilateral meeting with during the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2022. s6(a)
[Redacted]
- 6 s6(a)
[Redacted] I also intend to visit the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency – a key forum through which the New Zealand Defence Force engages in addressing regional maritime security issues.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I would be accompanied by three staff members from my office, two of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force. I will be accompanied by the Secretary of Defence, the Commander

Joint Forces New Zealand and officials from the Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Willie Apiata, VC will also form part of the New Zealand delegation. Their costs would be met from the departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

8 Indicative travel costs for my staff member and I are:

Airfares and taxes:	\$ 2,000
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$ 5,560
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 2,040
Contingency (@10%):	\$ 960
Total:	\$10,560

Acting Ministers

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

Defence: Hon Andrew Little
Whānau Ora: Hon Willie Jackson

Proactive release

10 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 6 to 9 August 2022 to travel to Solomon Islands;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by three members of staff, two of whom will have their travel costs met by the Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$10,560 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 delegation from the Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by their departments;
- 1.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Defence) and Hon Willie Jackson (Whānau Ora) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;

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

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence