

HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel: 27-02-2019 to 01-03-2019 – Release of Cabinet Documents

September 2019

This publication provides documents regarding Cabinet noting the report from Hon Ron Mark on his travel, from 27 February to 1 March 2019, to Adelaide and Sydney, Australia, to attend the Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting and hold bilateral meetings.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the May 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-19-MIN-0196]
- the associated Cabinet paper *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark; Australia 27 February to 1 March* [CAB-19-SUB-0196].

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)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)].



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 Ron Mark

Portfolio **Defence**

On 6 May 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Ron Mark under CAB-19-SUB-0196 on his travel, from 27 February to 1 March 2019, to Adelaide and Sydney, Australia, to attend the Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting and hold bilateral meetings.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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

Chair, Cabinet

REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK; AUSTRALIA 27 FEBRUARY TO 1 MARCH

Proposal

1. That Cabinet note the report on my attendance at the Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 February in Adelaide and meeting with the Australian opposition spokesperson for Defence in Sydney on 1 March.

Travel report

Australian – New Zealand Defence Ministers Meeting

2. From 27 – 28 February I travelled to Adelaide to meet with my counterpart the Hon Christopher Pyne for the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting (ANZDMM). [REDACTED] s6(b)(i)

3. On the review of the New Zealand Defence Capability plan, I noted to Minister Pyne that the new plan would signal the direction of travel with regard to future investment, with considerations including an enhanced sealift capability, a maritime surveillance capability to complement the P-8s and information system upgrades (including intelligence, space and cyber).

4. I took particular care to highlight that the drivers for the selection of future defence capabilities would most notably include the impacts of climate change, which I emphasised is the single biggest threat to the Pacific. [REDACTED] s6(a)

5. [REDACTED] s6(b)(i)

Released by the Minister of Defence

6. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

7. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

[Redacted] s6(b)(i)

8. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

9. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

10. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

Global Security Issues

11. [Redacted] s6(b)(i)

I confirmed that New Zealand was in the process of reviewing its Iraq commitment beyond 30 June 2019. Minister Peters and I will be taking a paper to the External Relations and Security Committee on this deployment in May.

12. Following the conclusion of the meeting, Minister Pyne and I participated in a short media stand-up and released a Joint Statement on Pacific Cooperation which outlines specific examples of cooperation in the region, building on the 2018 Joint Statement on Closer Defence Relations.

Meeting with Opposition Defence Spokesperson, Richard Marles

13. While returning through Sydney, I took the opportunity to meet with Opposition Defence Spokesman, Richard Marles. [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED]

Summary

15. [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED]

I look forward to exploring options for greater cooperation with Australia on future capability initiatives.

Proactive Release

16. 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

17. I recommend that Cabinet:

Note this report.

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence