



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Judith Collins - February 2024

Portfolios **Foreign Affairs / Defence**

On 11 March 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Judith Collins under CAB-24-SUB-0074 on their travel, from 31 January to 1 February 2024, to Melbourne, Australia for the Australia New Zealand Ministerial Meeting.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Judith Collins KC

We recommend that Cabinet note this report on our travel to Melbourne, Australia from 31 January to 1 February 2024 for the inaugural Australia New Zealand Ministerial Meeting.

Report

- 1 On 31 January we travelled to Melbourne to meet with our Australian counterparts, Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Defence Minister Richard Marles, for the Australia New Zealand Ministerial Meeting (ANZMIN). We were accompanied by a media delegation.
- 2 The 2+2 format - which is widely used by Australia to engage with like-minded partners - facilitated an integrated discussion on responding to the current strategic environment. It also provided an early opportunity to deliver on the engagement and coordination with Australia that Prime Ministers Luxon and Albanese had discussed in December last year, where they had agreed ANZMIN should be held early in 2024 as a key priority in the bilateral relationship.

ANZMIN

- 3 The ANZMIN meeting was substantive and befitting the close relationship was wide-ranging discussions touching on bilateral engagement, the Pacific, South East Asia, ^{s6(a)} Ukraine, ^{s6(a)} ^{s6(a)} the Middle East, multilateralism, defence cooperation, and CPTPP among other issues. This was reflected in a Joint Statement¹ which was released at the close of the ANZMIN.
- 4 Strategic alignment was evident throughout the meeting. ^{s6(a)}

¹ Link here: [Joint Statement on Australia-New Zealand Ministerial Consultations \(ANZMIN\) 2024 | Beehive.govt.nz.](#)

s6(b)(f)

We agreed to talk more, s6(b)(f), s6(a)

5 Our intent to bring more energy, urgency, and greater alignment to the relationship, s6(a)

was warmly welcomed. s6(a)

6 There was a clear direction from both sides to officials to step up coordination and work on identifying opportunities for integrated action or at least shared policy thinking. s6(b)(f)

This would also be an avenue for delivering on the various pieces of work we discussed at ANZMIN. s6(2)(g), (f)

7 In addition to the ANZMIN, we both undertook meetings with our respective counterparts.

Foreign Ministers Consultations

8 Rt Hon Winston Peters and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong held their first Foreign Ministers' Consultations. s6(a)

Discussions also covered s6(a)

how we strengthen Pacific regional architecture s6(a)

9 Both Ministers were clear throughout the meeting that it was absolutely critical for New Zealand and Australia to be on the same page, s6(a)
This requires continuous dialogue and candid cooperation.

Defence Ministers' Meeting

10 Hon Judith Collins KC took part in the Australia New Zealand Defence Ministers' Meeting, which is a formal annual meeting as part of the Australia-New Zealand Defence Dialogue Architecture. This meeting allowed for Defence Ministers to engage in an in-depth discussion across a range of defence areas in advance of the ANZMIN meeting. This was the Minister's second formal engagement with DPM Marles, following the South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting at the end of last year.

11 The meeting was underpinned by the importance of strategic alignment, interoperability, and an increasing focus on geostrategic settings in the Indo-Pacific. It was clear from the ^{s9(2)(g)(i)} discussions that Australia and New Zealand are more closely aligned than ever.

12 During this meeting, Defence Ministers agreed to a range of outcomes,

^{s6(b)(i), s6(a)}

Other engagements

13 On arrival into Melbourne, we attended a dinner hosted by DPM Marles - a useful opportunity to engage with him informally ahead of the ANZMIN programme the following day. We also participated in a Welcome to Country Ceremony, and a Joint Press Conference at the close of the ANZMIN, both with our Australian counterparts.

Proactive release

14 This paper will be proactively released, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

We recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister of Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence