

Office of Te Minita Whanaketanga

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Willie Jackson

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Rarotonga from 13 – 17 July 2023 (NZT).
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. Leave from Parliament has been sought and approved, noting the travel period falls predominantly within the recess period and I will not forgo any of my regular Parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The proposed travel programme is focused solely in Rarotonga. The purpose of my travel relates to my Māori Development portfolio.
- 4 The primary purpose of my travel to is to represent the New Zealand Government at a headline Matariki event on 14 July at the official residence in Rarotonga, Ngātīpa.
- 5 I have been invited to visit Rarotonga by the Cook Islands Government to advance Māori to Māori cooperation and development. This invitation followed a visit to the Cook Islands in October 2022 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has encouraged me to take this opportunity to build momentum in this important aspect of our partnership with the Cook Islands.
- 6 In addition to speaking at the New Zealand High Commission's Matariki reception, held on the closing night of an Aotearoa Film Festival, my programme will also include calls on the Prime Minister (subject to availability which is still being confirmed) and the Minister of Culture. It will also include engagements focused on Māori to Māori economic cooperation, language revitalisation, culture-first sustainable tourism and marae visits and other community gatherings.
- 7 New Zealand's Waka Hourua / Vaka Purua Statement of Partnership with the Cook Islands has a Priority area of Hauora – Turanga Memeitaki – Wellbeing. Part of this priority is for us to continue to strengthen Māori to Māori engagement including in the areas of economic development, business, environmental protection, health, wellbeing, education and culture. The key objective of this travel is to advance the Hauora Priority of our Waka Hourua / Vaka Purua Statement of Partnership.
- 8 The tangata whenua of the Cook Islands are Māori and we share deep whakapapa ties. Strong Māori to Māori connections are part of the unique character of our relationship with the Cook Islands and as such the travel will also support our wider relationship and regional objectives.

9 As an indication of the importance of this mahi to the Cook Islands Government, they are keen to host me even though they have deferred most high-level inwards visits in the busy period as they prepare to host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting.

Ministerial Party

10 I propose to travel with one member of staff from my office. The New Zealand High Commissioner in Rarotonga and her team will accompany and support me on the ground.

Travel Costs

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

Airfares and taxes:	\$5,050.00
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$8,559.72
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$3,500.00
Total:	\$17,309.72

Acting Ministers

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

Māori Development	Hon Peeni Henare
Broadcasting and Media	Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Proactive release

13 This paper will be proactively released on the website of Te Puni Kōkiri. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

1. **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 13 to 17 July 2023 to travel to Rarotonga;
2. **agree** that I be accompanied by one staff member;
3. **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$17,309.72 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
4. **agree** that in my absence:
 - Hon Carmel Sepuloni Minister of Broadcasting and Media
 - Hon Peeni Henare Minister for Māori Development
5. **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Willie Jackson
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori