

The Treasury

Proposed Overseas Travel Information Release

November 2019

This document has been proactively released by **Hon Shane Jones, Associate Minister of Finance** on the Treasury website at

<https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/finance-portfolio-cabinet-material>.

Cabinet Document Details

Title: **Cabinet Paper CAB-19-SUB-0186: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones**

Date: **29 April 2019**

Creator: Office of the Associate Minister of Finance

Copyright and Licensing

Cabinet material and advice to Ministers from the Treasury and other public service departments are © **Crown copyright** but are licensed for re-use under **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>].

For material created by other parties, copyright is held by them and they must be consulted on the licensing terms that they apply to their material.

Accessibility

The Treasury can provide an alternate HTML version of this material if requested. Please cite this document's title or PDF file name when you email a request to information@treasury.govt.nz.

Office of the Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Shane Jones)

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Shane Jones

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Denarau Island, Fiji from 2 May 2019 to 4 May 2019 to attend the 2019 annual meeting ('Annual Meeting') of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank ('ADB').
- 2 In principle approval from the Prime Minister has been sought and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The Annual Meeting is a five day meeting in Denarau Island, Fiji. The meetings offer a range of opportunities to develop relationships with a broad audience of Ministers of finance and development, central bank governors, private sector and civil society organisations, media, academia, and development partners. I intend to attend three days of these meetings.
- 4 The timing and location of the Annual Meeting is important. Some members of the ADB are currently questioning whether the ADB should alter the way it provides grant funding in a way that may detriment the Pacific Island nations. The Annual Meeting will be the first one to be held in the Pacific Islands, and will provide a strong platform to defend the ADB's current funding model. It will also allow me to push New Zealand's broader Pacific Reset policy and build support for APEC 2021.
- 5 My programme currently contains a range of options to engage in the Annual Meeting including speaking at the business session of the Annual Meeting, which will allow me to push New Zealand's objectives in the Pacific.
- 6 Senior figures from the Asia-Pacific region will attend the Annual Meeting, so there will be an opportunity to engage in bilateral discussions with Ministerial counterparts and key executives at the ADB.
- 7 Potential options for my programme include bilateral discussions with finance Ministers from a number of Pacific Island nations, Ministers from Malaysia and Indonesia, and the President and a Vice President of the ADB.
- 8 The objectives of these bilateral discussions will be to:
 - 8.1 promote New Zealand's priorities as the representative of New Zealand's Governor at the ADB, including New Zealand's lift in ambition and investment in the Pacific;

- 8.2 share and gain policy insights and strengthen bilateral relationships in the Pacific, particularly with finance Ministers;
- 8.3 build relationships to support New Zealand's hosting of APEC 2021 and to get buy-in to the agenda and ministerial attendance;
- 8.4 engage with Pacific counterparts to build awareness of and momentum on the Pacific Reset; and
- 8.5 encourage Pacific Island nations to ratify or sign (as applicable) PACER Plus.

Pro-active release

- 9 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Ministerial Party.

- 10 I will be accompanied by two officials from The Treasury, three officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be met by their respective agencies.
- 11 My wife will also accompany me, and I will personally pay all costs associated with her travel.

Travel Costs

- 12 The estimated cost of travel is:

Airfares, including taxes and fees
Accommodation

Total

Acting Ministers

- 13 For the entire period I am away, I propose that:
 - 13.1 Hon David Parker act in my Infrastructure & Regional Economic Development portfolio and Hon Damien O'Connor act in my Forestry Portfolio.

Recommendations

- 14 I recommend that Cabinet:
 - 14.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 2 May 2019 to 4 May 2019 to travel to Denarau Island, Fiji for the Annual Meeting;

- 14.2 approve the estimated expenditure of _____ for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 14.3 note that I will be accompanied by officials from The Treasury, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 14.4 agree that in my absence:
 - 14.4.1 Hon David Parker act in my Infrastructure & Regional Economic Development portfolio and Hon Damien O'Connor act in my Forestry Portfolio; and
- 14.5 note that the House is sitting for one day during my absence;
- 14.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip; and
- 14.7 note that I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days, with any redactions made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Shane Jones

Associate Minister of Finance