

# The Treasury

## Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Grant Robertson Information Release

January 2020

This document has been proactively released by **Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance and Minister for Sport and Recreation** on the Treasury website at

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### Cabinet Document Details

Title: **Cabinet Paper CAB-19-SUB-0512: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Grant Robertson**

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Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Grant Robertson**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Tokyo, Japan <sup>[1]</sup> from Thursday 24 October 2019 to Sunday 3 November 2019, to:
  - undertake bilateral engagements on matters relevant to my Finance and Sport and Recreation portfolios, <sup>[1]</sup> and
  - attend the semi-final and final matches of the Rugby World Cup 2019 (RWC 2019) in Japan.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of travel**

#### *Japan*

- 3 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has identified Japan as a key partner. It is seeking to strengthen the relationship between our two countries, including through leveraging several high profile sporting fixtures Japan is hosting in 2019-21: the RWC 2019; the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020; and the World Masters Games in 2021.
- 4 A visit to Japan to attend the RWC 2019 will contribute to New Zealand's broader strategic effort to lift the relationship with Japan, and will allow me to advance issues relevant to both my Sport and Recreation and Finance portfolios.
- 5 A visit at this time will also provide a useful opportunity to further build on the momentum achieved in the Prime Minister's visit on 18 -22 September.
- 6 *Finance:* I will use this visit to exchange views with and gather insights from a range of government and non-government stakeholders on key finance and Government priorities. To this end, I am seeking a call with Japan's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Tarō Asō, and with the Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Yasutoshi Nishimura. These, and other engagements, will present opportunities for New Zealand to reinforce its value as a committed and like-minded strategic partner, particularly on global and regional economic and trade issues.

- 7 *Sport and Recreation:* The RWC 2019 provides opportunities for both business-to-business and government-to-government meetings with global and regional partners likely to attend this significant event.
- 8 In 2017, Sport New Zealand and the Japan Sports Agency signed a Memorandum of Cooperation, a high-level arrangement from which New Zealand is already developing both high performance and community sport outcomes. I will seek a call with Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Kōichi Hagiudato, to discuss our work on these matters. I will also seek a call with the Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games, Seiko Hashimoto, and attend functions with the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) and BlackGold (a joint NZOC/High Performance Sport NZ philanthropic initiative that supports New Zealanders achieving on the world stage).
- 9 I will also use this visit to promote Japanese investment into New Zealand. It is my intention to host a working lunch with senior representatives of key Japanese corporate investors as well as attend the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) Investment Seminar on 25 October, to promote 'greenfields' investments into New Zealand.

[1]

### **Ministerial Party**

- 13 I will be accompanied by my Private Secretary. I will also be accompanied by my husband, Charles Alfred Kaiwai (Alf). All costs associated with his travel will be met by me personally. <sup>[1]</sup>
- 14 The Chief Executive for Sport New Zealand and two Treasury officials will accompany me in Japan, as appropriate. <sup>[1]</sup>  
<sup>[1]</sup> Costs associated with officials' travel will be met by their respective departments.

## Travel Costs

15 Costs associated with travel to major events such as the RWC 2019 are higher than normal, particularly for accommodation. Every effort will be made to reduce the cost of the visit from the indicative costs set out below. For example, the Embassy in Tokyo has arranged to borrow a car from the New Zealand Defence Force Attaché. I also intend to stay four nights at the Official Residence of the New Zealand Ambassador to Japan.

16

## Acting Ministers

17 For the period that I propose to travel, Hon David Clark will act in my Finance portfolio, Hon Megan Woods will act in my Earthquake Commission portfolio and Hon Peeni Henare will act in my Sport and Recreation portfolio.

## Proactive release

18 I intend to proactively release this paper following my return, subject to any redactions made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

19 I recommend that Cabinet:

19.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured (as the House is sitting), from 24 October 2019 to Sunday 3 November 2019 to travel to Tokyo, Japan<sup>[1]</sup> to undertake bilateral engagements on matters relevant to my Finance and Sport and Recreation portfolios;

19.2 **agree** that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

19.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of up to \_\_\_\_\_ for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

19.4 **note** that I will be accompanied in Japan by officials from Sport New Zealand and the Treasury,<sup>[1]</sup>  
<sup>[1]</sup> whose travel costs will be met by their departments;

- 19.5 **agree** that in my absence Hon David Clark will act in my Finance portfolio, Hon Megan Woods will act in my Earthquake Commission portfolio, and Hon Peeni Henare will act in my Sport and Recreation portfolio; and
- 19.6 **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Grant Robertson

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation