



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Judith Collins KC	Portfolio	Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, Space
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024	Date to be published	13 June 2024

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
April 2024	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024	Office of the Minister for Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, Space
18 March 2024	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins – 8 to 14 April 2024 CAB-24-MIN-0082 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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Office of the Minister for Space

Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – April 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from 8 to 14 April to attend the 39th Space Symposium in Colorado Springs and undertake engagements in support of my Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, and Defence portfolio responsibilities.
- 2 This will be an 'Advanced Technology and Aerospace Mission', and I will be utilising my participation at the Symposium alongside New Zealand firms to accelerate our export and investment growth.
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 4 The purpose of my attendance at the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs is to raise the profile of, and open opportunities for, New Zealand's space sector to an international audience.
- 5 The Space Symposium in Colorado Springs is a global event that provides business and networking opportunities across all sectors of the space ecosystem.
- 6 I have been invited to speak at the Symposium on Wednesday 10 April in the 'Space Leaders Spotlight – One on One Conversations'.
- 7 In 2023 the Symposium attracted over 10,000 people from more than 40 countries. In contrast to other export sectors, overseas government and private sector customers, as well as potential investors, expect to see the New Zealand government clearly standing behind our firms. The government also plays a critical role in opening doors for our researchers to collaborate with NASA and other leading space science organisations.
- 8 While at the Symposium I intend to meet with senior international representatives relevant to my Space, Science, Innovation and Technology, and Defence portfolio responsibilities.
- 9 While in the United States, I also propose to undertake a series of engagements with prominent New Zealand and US firms, investors and technology leaders in Denver and Los Angeles.

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- 10 Building connections to those with influence over international investment decisions, experience with commercialising innovation, and an understanding of what is required to scale-up and operate at a global level, will be valuable as we seek to make these shifts in the New Zealand economy.

Ministerial Party

- 11 I will be accompanied by my Senior Private Secretary (travel costs met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel).
- 12 While in the United States I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and supported by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, New Zealand Defence Force, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff, whose costs will be met by departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff member's travel) are:

Airfares	\$38,008
Accommodation	\$3,800
Meals, surface travel, other costs	\$3,000
Contingency (10%)	\$4,480

Total: \$ 49,288

Acting Ministers

- 14 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Chris Penk

Defence: Hon Chris Penk

Digitising Government: Hon Melissa Lee

GCSB: Hon Andrew Bayly

NZSIS: Hon Andrew Bayly

Science, Innovation and Technology: Hon Simon Watts

Space: Hon Simon Watts

Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques: Hon Chris Penk

Proactive release

- 15 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 8 to 14 April to travel to the United States for space, technology and defence focused engagements;
 - 1.2 **note** that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip;
 - 1.3 **agree** that I be accompanied by one member of staff from my office;
 - 1.4 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$49,288 for my travel expenses and a member of staff from my office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.5 **note** that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and supported by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, New Zealand Defence Force, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff, whose costs will be met by departmental budgets;
 - 1.6 **agree** that in my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
 - 1.6.1 Attorney-General: Hon Chris Penk
 - 1.6.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
 - 1.6.3 Digitising Government: Hon Melissa Lee
 - 1.6.4 GCSB: Hon Andrew Bayly
 - 1.6.5 NZSIS: Hon Andrew Bayly
 - 1.6.6 Science, Innovation and Technology: Hon Simon Watts
 - 1.6.7 Space: Hon Simon Watts
 - 1.6.8 Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques: Hon Chris Penk

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- 1.7 **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister for Space | Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister of Defence