

# HON ANDREW LITTLE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

## Ministerial Travel May/June 2023: Singapore

September 2023

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report on Hon Andrew Little's travel to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue: 20th Asia Security Summit ("the Shangri-La Dialogue") in Singapore.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the April 2023 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little* [CAB-23-SUB-0176 and CAB-23-MIN-0176]
- the July 2023 Cabinet paper and associated Minute of Decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little* [CAB-23-SUB-0381 and CAB-23-MIN-0381]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

[www.defence.govt.nz/publications](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications).

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 15 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Andrew Little, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 31 May to 5 June 2023 to travel to Singapore to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue: 20<sup>th</sup> Asia Security Summit;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$35,725 for travel expenses for the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence, whose costs will be met by their departments;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for the Public Service;
  - 5.2      Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister of Defence;
  - 5.3      Hon David Parker act as Minister Responsible for the GCSB, Minister Responsible for the NZSIS, and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques;
  - 5.4      Hon Ginny Anderson act as Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SINGAPORE, WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2023 –  
MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet's approval to travel in my capacity as Minister of Defence to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue: 20th Asia Security Summit ("the Shangri-La Dialogue") in Singapore.
2. Allowing for travel I would be away from New Zealand from Wednesday 31 May 2023 to Monday 5 June 2023.
3. Approval in-principle to travel has been granted by the Prime Minister and is subject to leave being granted by the Labour Whip.

**Background**

4. The Shangri-La Dialogue is the premier forum for Defence Ministers in the Indo-Pacific. The high levels of attendance from Ministers, defence force leaders, and senior security agency officials make it an important focal point for major power relationships and for discussion on contemporary strategic issues.
5. I have been invited to speak on the theme of 'Nuclear Dimensions of Regional Security' at one of the Simultaneous Special Sessions on 2 June. Speaking on this topic would visibly raise New Zealand's profile on security/defence matters and provide an opportunity to articulate our position on a topic of great relevance and interest. New Zealand has a unique perspective and the opportunity to share a Pacific voice.
6. The Dialogue also provides opportunities for bilateral discussions with my counterparts throughout the summit (including with partners from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada partners from South East Asia).
7. I also have also been invited to attend group meetings in the margins of the event (for example, a Five Power Defence Arrangements Defence Ministers' breakfast [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]). These engagements provide a valuable opportunity to share perspectives on some

of the most crucial security issues facing our region with some of its most influential actors.

### Ministerial Party

8. I would be accompanied by one staff member from my office.
9. A delegation from the New Zealand Defence Force | Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa and the Ministry of Defence | Manatū Kaupapa Waonga would accompany me at departmental cost.

### Travel Costs

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

Airfares	\$18,724
Accommodation	\$7,322
Meals (maximum based on NZD \$85 DIA standard):	\$1,275
Surface travel:	\$500
Insurance:	\$500
Provision for document printing:	\$250
Communications:	\$200
Koha/cultural gifts:	\$1,000
Contingency (20%)	\$5,925
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$35,725</b>

### Acting Ministers

11. The following Ministers would act in my portfolios:
  - 11.1. Public Service – Hon Kelvin Davis MP;
  - 11.2. Defence – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
  - 11.3. Government Communications Security Bureau, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon David Parker MP; and
  - 11.4. Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations – Hon Ginny Andersen MP.

## Proactive release

12. It is proposed that this paper is proactively released by the Ministry of Defence | Manatū Kaupapa Waonga with appropriate redactions in accordance with CO (18) 4 after 30 business days following return.

## Recommendations

The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:

1. **approve** the Minister's absence from Wednesday 31 May 2023 to Monday 5 June 2023 to visit Singapore
2. **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$35,725 for travel expenses for the Minister and one staff member from his office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel]
3. **agree** that in the Minister's absence the following Ministers will act in his respective portfolios:
  - 3.1. Public Service – Hon Kelvin Davis MP; and
  - 3.2. Defence – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
  - 3.3. Government Communications Security Bureau, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon David Parker MP; and
  - 3.4. Treaty of Waitangi Negotiation – Hon Ginny Andersen MP.
4. **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Defence | Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Andrew Little  
**Minister of Defence**



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 21 August 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Andrew Little under CAB-23-SUB-0381 on his travel, from 31 May to 5 June 2023, to Singapore to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

## Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Singapore from 31 May to 5 June 2023.

### Report

- 1 The purpose of my travel to Singapore was to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies' (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue – the premier forum for Defence Ministers in the Indo-Pacific. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Dialogue, and was attended by 34 government ministers including three heads of government.
- 2 The Shangri-La Dialogue took place amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the growing tensions between China and the United States, including AUKUS, and the ongoing conflict in Myanmar. It provided a key opportunity to underscore New Zealand's strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and our enduring commitment to supporting global peace and security, as well as to gain a greater understanding of partners defence and security priorities.
- 3 During the Dialogue's plenary sessions, I heard speeches from Ministers, senior officials, security experts and business leaders on topics ranging from the security implications of cyber and technological competition to developing models for cooperative security. The overall security of the Indo-Pacific, and the implications of the Ukraine conflict were key topics that dominated discussions at the Shangri-La Dialogue this year. A common thread throughout the plenary and special sessions was the need for both China and the United States to keep the channels of communication open.
- 4 In the face of a more complicated and deteriorating strategic environment, speeches from countries across the region also featured references to increased defence spending and capabilities. This year Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese gave the keynote speech and outlined Australia's role in the Indo-Pacific referencing its recently unveiled Defence Strategic Review, and explaining the intention of AUKUS.
- 5 I delivered a speech on the theme of 'Nuclear Dimensions of Regional Security' at one of the Simultaneous Special Sessions, which also included representatives from NATO, Pakistan, and the Republic of Korea. My speech was an opportunity to make clear New Zealand's longstanding and non-ambiguous position on nuclear weapons. I acknowledged New Zealanders' views on nuclear weapons are not shared by everyone and noted that our moral clarity should not be confused with wishful thinking. Rather, New Zealand is preparing to equip itself with trained defence personnel, assets and materiel, and increasing its modernisation and spending of capabilities across land, sea and air.

6 In addition to attending the plenary sessions, I conducted 11 bilateral engagements including with counterparts from Singapore, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Canada, NATO, the United Kingdom and Ukraine. I also met with Chinese Minister of National Defense, General Li Shangfu, for the first time since our respective appointments. s6(a)



7 During the Dialogue, I also met with a number of key partners more informally, including a short pull aside with US Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin III and informal meetings with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Richard Marles and Fijian Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua.

8 There was a strong Defence Industry presence at the Dialogue, and I met with representatives from Amazon, Microsoft and Lockheed Martin. My meeting with Lockheed Martin was a particularly useful opportunity to touch on the ongoing C130J project and the value of the long standing relationship New Zealand has with the company.

9 Additionally, I undertook several multilateral engagements, such as the Five Power Defence Arrangements Defence Ministers' breakfast and Cohen Group Breakfast hosted by former US Secretary of Defence William Cohen. On the sidelines of the Dialogue, I also signed a Statement of Intent with my Japanese counterpart on 'Defence cooperation in maritime security, Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and climate change in the Pacific Islands Region'.

#### **Proactive release**

10 I intend that the Ministry of Defence | Manatu Kaupapa Waonga will proactively release this paper subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

#### **Recommendation**

11 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Singapore to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> International Institute for Strategic Studies' Shangri-La Dialogue over 31 May to 5 June.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Defence