

Proactive Release: Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Bishop, March 2026



Minister	Hon. Chris Bishop	Portfolio	Sport and Recreation
Title of Paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Bishop – March 2026	Date of Issue	19 March 2026

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
16 February 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Bishop – March 2026	Hon Chris Bishop
16 February 2026	Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Bishop – March 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0035	Cabinet



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 Chris Bishop – March 2026

Portfolio Associate Sport and Recreation

On 16 February 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Chris Bishop from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 12 March 2026, to travel to India to lead a sport diplomacy delegation;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$46,148 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will be accompanied by:
 - 4.1 officials from Sport New Zealand, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
 - 4.2 a delegation of Asia New Zealand Foundation representatives and sport sector leaders, whose costs will be met by their own organisations;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Nicola Willis act as Minister for Infrastructure;
 - 5.2 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister of Housing;
 - 5.3 Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform;
 - 5.4 Hon James Meager act as Minister of Transport;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been sought.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

[Security classification –**In Confidence**]

Office of the Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Bishop – March 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Ahmedabad, Delhi and Mumbai in India, from 6 March to 12 March 2026 to lead a sport diplomacy delegation.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in principle, and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 In March 2025, the Prime Ministers of India and New Zealand, in a joint statement, affirmed their commitment to building close people to people relationships through sport and in 2026 jointly celebrating 100 years of sporting ties between the countries.
- 4 The purpose of the delegation visit is to advance the Sports Memorandum of Cooperation between the two countries, celebrate 100 years of sporting ties in India, promote the November Centenary programme in New Zealand and support wider NZ Inc outcomes in India, including trade and investment.
- 5 My intended programme is structured around the following:
 - T20 Cricket World Cup related engagements in Ahmedabad on 7–8 March, including the 2028 T20 Cricket World Cup Board Meeting and attendance at the 2026 T20 World Cup Final.
 - Insight sessions and bilateral engagement in Delhi on 9 March, including meeting with the Indian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, structured National Sport Organisation-to-National Sport Organisation exchanges, and an India - New Zealand Centenary of Sporting Unity function at the New Zealand High Commission.
 - Sport-tech, innovation and commercial engagements in Mumbai on 10–11 March, including potential visits to Tata, NBA India and Reliance Labs, and a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Business Networking Event.

Ministerial Party

- 6 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office.
- 7 I intend to be accompanied by a small delegation of agency officials from Sport NZ. All costs for Sport New Zealand staff will be covered from within Sport New Zealand's budget.

- 8 Representatives from the Asia New Zealand Foundation, Chief Executive Officers from some of our National Sport Organisations and Sport Business Leaders will join the delegation. Individual organisations will meet their own travel and accommodation costs, with funding being sought from MFAT and others for in-market events.

Travel Costs

9 Estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$26,000
Accommodation:	\$14,000
Other expenses (ground transport, facilitations, per diems, representations, hospitality):	\$3,950
Contingency (5%)	\$2,198
Total:	\$46,148

Acting Ministers

- 10 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am out of the country:
- 10.1 Hon Nicola Willis will be Acting Minister for Infrastructure and Associate Finance will revert to her as lead Minister
 - 10.2 Hon Tama Potaka will be acting Minister of Housing
 - 10.3 Hon Penny Simmonds will be acting Minister responsible for RMA Reform
 - 10.4 Hon James Meager will be acting Minister of Transport
 - 10.5 Associate Sport & Recreation portfolio will revert to Hon Mark Mitchell as lead Minister
 - 10.6 Hon Louise Upston will undertake Leader of the House duties.

Proactive release

- 11 This paper will be proactively released within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 6 March 2026 to 12 March 2026 to travel to India to lead a sport diplomacy delegation;
- 1.2 note that the travel has been approved in principle by the Chief of Staff;
- 1.3 note that I will miss one Cabinet meeting on Monday 9 March 2026;
- 1.4 note that the House is sitting while I am away;
- 1.5 approve the estimated expenditure of \$46,148 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.6 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff from my office;
- 1.7 note that I will be accompanied by officials from Sport New Zealand, whose travel costs will be met by Sport New Zealand;
- 1.8 note that I will be accompanied by a delegation of Asia New Zealand Foundation representatives and sport sector leaders, whose costs will be met by their own organisations; and
- 1.9 note acting Ministers have been agreed.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation