

Proactive Release

Date: 4 July 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

***Proposed Overseas Travel: Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau:
(CAB-19-MIN-0159)***

***Report on Overseas Travel: Under Secretary Tabuteau: 22-26 April 2019
(CAB-19-MIN-0242)***

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 7(b): to prejudice relations between any of the Governments of New Zealand, the self-governing State of the Cook Islands and the self-governing State of Niue.

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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: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 15 April 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Fletcher Tabuteau MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from New Zealand, from 23 to 27 April 2019, to travel to Niue to open the (new) New Zealand chancellery and undertake bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$9,000 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNDER-SECRETARY FLETCHER
TABUTEAU**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Niue to open the (new) New Zealand chancellery and to lead annual high level talks with the Government of Niue. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Travel Objectives

2 The objectives for the travel are:

s7(b)

- Discuss shared security challenges with the Government of Niue;
- Examine New Zealand development projects being implemented in Niue.

Travel

3 I propose to depart Auckland for Niue on Tuesday 23 April and return on Saturday 27 April 2019.

Travelling Party

4 I propose to be accompanied by a Foreign Affairs Private Secretary in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under-Secretary Responsibilities

5 I propose that the Minister for Regional Economic Development cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities, and that Hon Jones also cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities as Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. I note that the Deputy Prime Minister will be overseas during the week of 22 April (this will be the subject of a separate travel approval Cabinet paper).

Costs of Travel

6 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the travelling party are:

Airfares:	\$4,000
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$3,750
Hospitality and gifts:	\$500
Contingency:	\$750
Total	\$9,000

Proactive Release

7 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.

Recommendation

8 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Niue from 23 to 27 April 2019 in my capacity as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs;
- b) **note** that I would be accompanied by one staff member from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- c) **approve** expenditure up to \$9,000 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and

d) **agree** that my regional development, foreign affairs and disarmament responsibilities be covered by Minister Jones from 23 to 27 April 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Fletcher Tabuteau MP
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Disarmament
Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development

Proactively released by the
Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 27 May 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Fletcher Tabuteau MP) under CAB-19-SUB-0242 on his travel, from 22 to 26 April 2019, to Niue to open the (new) New Zealand chancellery and attend ANZAC Day commemorations.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair
Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNDER SECRETARY TABUTEAU MP: 22 –
26 APRIL 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on travel to Niue between 22 and 26 April 2019.

Report

2 I led a New Zealand delegation to Niue from 22 to 26 April 2019 to support the official opening of the newly constructed New Zealand Chancery, conduct High Level Consultations, attend Niue's ANZAC day service, and co-sign a Statement of Partnership with the Niue Government.

3 The visit took place at an important point in our relationship with Niue. s7(b), s6(a)
s7(b), s6(a)

s7(b), s6(a)

overall the visit was
successful in moving forward the relationship.

Chancery Opening

4 On 23 April, I led from the New Zealand side the opening of a new Chancery, which is a visible sign of New Zealand's commitment to its continued presence in Niue, and highlights the strength of our enduring relationship. The importance of our

relationship was highlighted during Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's visit in March 2018, during which she presided over the turning of the soil for the new Chancery.

5 The opening was well attended by New Zealand and Niue dignitaries (including a number of Niue Cabinet Members) and the ceremony itself (conducted in Te Reo, Niuean and English) was poignant. The Chancery itself, based on the architectural style of a marae, is well designed for the Niue environment.

High Level Consultations

6 [s7(b)]

[s7(b)]

The

Premier's conversation centred around:

- A new tourism strategy for Niue – including potential for a new hotel;
- his desire to improve community housing;
- recapitalisation of the Niue Development Bank – in order to stimulate private sector growth;
- [s7(b), s9(2)(j)]
- [s7(b)]
- [s7(b)]

7 I responded to the Premier's welcome and provided a short overview of his impressions since visiting Niue as part of the February 2018 Pacific Mission with Prime Minister Ardern. [s7(b)]

[s7(b)]

ANZAC Day Commemoration

8 The New Zealand delegation attended ANZAC Day commemorations on 25 April where I delivered a speech and laid a wreath alongside Niue's RSA representative Mr Hagen Siosikefu and Niue's Minister for Social Services the Hon Billy Talagi. The commemoration was moving and acknowledged the important contribution made by Niue in World War One and World War Two.

Statement of Partnership signing ceremony

9 The Statement of Partnership sets out the principles and priorities under which the Government of Niue and the Government of New Zealand will cooperate, coordinate, and partner in identified priority areas. In this Statement we acknowledge the unique nature and significance of our interdependence and reaffirm the commitments made between our two countries and we note our long, established, and respectful relationship, which is founded upon our special constitutional arrangement and a spirit of close friendship.

10 [s7(b)]

[s7(b)]

[s7(b)]

Minister Tagelagi and I then signed the

Statement.

Proactive Release

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Recommendation

12 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Approved for lodgement

Fletcher Tabuteau MP
Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the
Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs