

Proactive Release

Date: 13 June 2019

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs:

Title of papers:

Proposed Overseas Travel of Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau: Nauru, 29 January – 1 February 2019 (CAB-19-SUB-0006 refers)

Report on Overseas Travel: Nauru 29 January – 1 February 2019 (CAB-19-SUB-0084 refers)

Title of minutes:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP (CAB-19-MIN-0006 refers)

Report on Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP (CAB-19-MIN-0084 refers)



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 29 January 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Fletcher Tabuteau MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from New Zealand, from 29 January to 1 February 2019, to travel to Nauru to attend the closing ceremony of the 50th independence celebrations;
- 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 \$10,000 for the travel 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 OF UNDER-SECRETARY FLETCHER
TABUTEAU: NAURU, 29 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2019**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Nauru from 29 January – 1 February 2019 for the closing ceremony of 50th independence celebrations. The Prime Minister has given in principle approval for this travel.

Visit Objectives

2 The objective for my visit is to reinforce the bilateral relationship, as part of a broader plan (approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs) to expand New Zealand's engagement with Nauru. During my visit I will, in particular, engage with Nauru on good governance, human rights, and greater economic and political empowerment.

Travel

3 I propose to depart New Zealand on the afternoon of Tuesday 29 January and return to New Zealand on the evening of Friday 1 February 2019.

Travelling Party

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

Under-Secretary Responsibilities

5 If the travel is approved, I propose that the Minister of Foreign Affairs cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities and that the Minister for Regional Economic Development cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities.

Costs of Travel

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

Airfares:	\$6,000
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$2,500
Hospitality and gifts:	\$500
Contingency (5%):	\$1,000
Total	\$10,000

Recommendation

7 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my travel to Nauru from 29 January to 1 February 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 \$10,000 for the travel expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and
- d) **agree** that my Foreign Affairs responsibilities be covered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 29 January to 1 February 2019;
- e) **agree** that my Regional Economic Development responsibilities be covered by the Minister for Regional Economic Development from 29 January to 1 February 2019;

Yours sincerely

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

Approved for lodgement



Cabinet

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Report on Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 25 March 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fletcher Tabuteau MP, under CAB-19-SUB-0084 on his travel, from 29 January to 1 February 2019, to Nauru, to attend the closing ceremony of the 50th independence celebrations.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair
Cabinet

REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: NAURU: 29 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2019

It is recommended that Cabinet note this report on travel by the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs to Nauru from 29 January -1 February 2019.

Report

2 I travelled to Nauru to attend the closing ceremony of 50th independence celebrations. The objective for my visit was to reinforce the bilateral relationship, as part of a broader plan to expand New Zealand's engagement with Nauru.

3 The small number of delegations that attended the ceremony highlighted New Zealand's presence. Among Pacific Island countries, only Republic of Marshall Islands attended at head of state level with HE Hilda Heine leading the delegation. Australia sent Assistant Minister Anne Ruston, which offered me a valuable opportunity to meet the Senator for the first time and to informally discuss a range of issues.

4 I had a bilateral meeting with President Waqa after the closing ceremony, at which I congratulated the President on 51 years of Independence. The President noted with pride that over 1000 people have visited Nauru over the past year to take part in various celebrations and events. The President also noted that New Zealand is "back and bigger", and that showing up to these celebrations was an indication of a stronger relationship.

5 The President inquired about Minister Peters and stated that the Minister has enabled Nauru to start feeling more comfortable with New Zealand. The President went on to note the positive impact of the Pacific Reset, which he summarised as being about supporting Pacific people to be more confident with themselves. The President also emphasised that the Pacific Reset is an “excellent approach” and that while New Zealand has always been there, there needs to be a stronger relationship.

6 During the meeting I raised Minister Peters’ announcement of an increase in New Zealand’s development budget to Nauru by \$8 million. I also referenced the previous days’ Aid Talks between officials, which focused on how New Zealand might best support Nauru’s economic resilience and governance goals.

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 **note** this report.

Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs