

# Proactive Release

Date: 26 November 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Fletcher Tabuteau:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau:  
Federated States of Micronesia, 15-22 June 2019***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP  
(CAB-19-MIN-0522 refers)***

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 14 October 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Fletcher Tabuteau MP) under CAB-19-SUB-0522 on his travel, from 15 to 22 June 2019, to the Federated States of Micronesia to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> annual ministerial meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Proactively Released by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau

Chair

Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNDER-SECRETARY FLETCHER TABUTEAU: FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, 15 – 22 JUNE 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report concerning travel I undertook to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), from 15 – 22 June 2019.

2 In FSM, I led the New Zealand delegation to the 16th Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial meeting (FFCMIN16). Highlights of the meeting included:

- I announced **New Zealand's ratification of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA)**. The NTSA is an agreement under the *Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region* ("the Niue Treaty"), which was originally adopted by Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members in 1992 to enhance regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries surveillance and law enforcement.
- **Ministers endorsed a new five year FFA Strategic Plan (2020-2025)**. New Zealand was involved in the development of the plan which aligns well with New Zealand's priorities for improving fisheries management, reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and promoting a regional approach to managing and protecting shared fisheries resources. The Strategic Plan addresses the desire of FFA members to have increased support at the national level to assist with compliance and development of national industries. New Zealand announced it will provide NZ\$1.5 million to support implementation of the new Strategic Plan, including adjustments to FFA's functional, planning, budgeting and reporting arrangements.

- Ministers made a re-commitment to engage in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on **fisheries subsidies** in pursuit of an outcome at the end of 2019. While Ministers recognised the negative impacts of harmful subsidies, in particular on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), they emphasised the need for appropriate and effective special and differential treatment to ensure any outcomes do not unduly constrain the ability of SIDS to develop their domestic tuna industries.
- The FFA developed new harmonised **minimum terms and conditions (HMTCs) for crew on foreign flagged vessels** in FFA Members' exclusive economic zones. This follows agreement on a New Zealand-initiated and FFA member-led Resolution on labour standards for crew on fishing vessels at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in 2018.

3 While in FSM, I also conducted bilateral meetings with Ministers from Tokelau, the Cook Islands, FSM, and the new Australian Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Jonathan Duniam).

### **Proactive Release**

4 I plan to release this paper within 30 business days. Any redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

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

### **Approved for lodgement**

Fletcher Tabuteau MP

**Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs**