

Proactive Release

Date: 19 November 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP (CAB-19-MIN-0531 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 14 October 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Fletcher Tabuteau MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from New Zealand from 20 to 24 October 2019, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Honiara, Solomon Islands to officially open the new New Zealand High Commission chancery and visit New Zealand development projects being implemented;
 - 1.2 Vanuatu to visit New Zealand development projects being implemented;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 3 **approved** expenditure of up to \$11,000 for the travel expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel)
- 4 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: FLETCHER TABUTEAU: SOLOMON ISLANDS
AND VANUATU: 20 – 24 OCTOBER**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 20-24 October in my capacity as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has requested that I represent the Government at the formal opening of the (new) New Zealand High Commission chancery in Honiara. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Travel Objectives

- 2 The objectives for the travel are to:
- Officially open the (new) New Zealand High Commission chancery in Honiara, Solomon Islands.
 - As part of the Pacific Reset, advance New Zealand's focus on building mature political partnerships with Pacific Island countries, by engaging with key political, business and community stakeholders.
 - Visit New Zealand development projects being implemented in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, which are targeted at building state capability, enhancing economic opportunities and improving human development.
 - Reinforce New Zealand's commitment to Pacific regionalism and advancing collective solutions to regional issues.
 - Reiterate New Zealand's commitment to PACER Plus as a key enabler of economic development in Pacific countries.
 - Build on the visits to both countries earlier this year as part of the Pacific Mission, by reinforcing relationships with key stakeholders.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand on Sunday 20 October and return on Thursday 24 October.

Under-Secretary's Party

5 I propose to be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) from the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under-Secretary's Responsibilities

6 If my travel is approved, I propose that Minister Peters cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities and that Minister Shane Jones cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities, from 20-24 October. I have been granted leave from the House for the period of my travel.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel are:

Airfares:	\$ 6,000
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$ 3,000
Hospitality and gifts:	\$ 1000
Contingency:	\$ 1000
Total	\$ 11,000

Proactive Release

8 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

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 20-24 October;
- b) **approve** expenditure of up to \$11,000 for this travel;
- c) **note** that I would be accompanied by one staff member from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- d) **agree** that Rt Hon Winston Peters will cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities and Hon Shane Jones will cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities while I am away.

Approved for lodgement

Fletcher Tabuteau MP
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs

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