

Proactive Release

Date: 21 August 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: Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Fletcher Tabuteau:

Federated States of Micronesia 15-22 June 2019

(CAB-19-MIN-0274 refers)



Cabinet

Summary

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**

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Fletcher Tabuteau MP) recommends that Cabinet:

- 1 authorise his absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 15 to 22 June 2019, to travel to the Federated States of Micronesia to attend the sixteenth annual ministerial meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee;
- 2 agree that he be accompanied by one member of staff from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 3 approve the expenditure up to \$30,588 for the expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel).

Rachel Clarke
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

The Cabinet
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair
Cabinet

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

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the Federated States of Micronesia between 15 and 22 June for the sixteenth annual ministerial meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Pohnpei: Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee

2 The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) focuses on the valuable tuna stocks that migrate through the region and are a critical component of many Pacific Island economies. New Zealand plays an important role in providing support and advice as both a major donor and a member country of the Agency.

3 The Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee (FFCMIN) is the paramount governing body of the FFA. Ministers have an important role to play in providing high-level oversight of current regional fisheries issues and the work of the FFA through this annual meeting.

4 This year the meeting will take place from 18-19 June in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and will be followed by an additional Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting on 20 June to discuss fisheries issues outside of FFA's remit.

New Zealand Objectives

5 Objectives for the talks include contributing to discussion on major fisheries issues, in line with New Zealand's 2019 Pacific Fisheries priorities of:

- Improving sustainable management of regional tropical tuna fisheries, south Pacific longline fisheries, and national coastal fisheries;
- Reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing;
- Promoting a regional approach to decision making when managing and protecting shared fisheries resources;
- Supporting Pacific partners to reduce fisheries-related bycatch of seabirds;
- Advocating for improved working conditions in the Pacific fisheries sector;
- Supporting Pacific Island engagement in the successful negotiation of new fisheries subsidies disciplines at the World Trade Organisation (WTO); and
- Implementing whole of Government support to enable effective fisheries management and compliance in Tokelau's exclusive economic zone.

In addition, during the meeting I will:

- Ensure that the priorities and interests of the region are agreed to going into the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting later this year;
- Engage in formal and informal bilateral meetings with key members of the FFA; and
- Ensure that New Zealand's commercial interests are not unduly constrained in developing FFA positions.

Travel

6 I propose to depart New Zealand on the morning of Saturday 15 June 2019 and return to New Zealand on the evening of Saturday 22 June 2019. This is the shortest trip possible, noting that there are no direct commercial flights to FSM.

Ministerial Party

7 I would be accompanied by a foreign affairs private secretary from the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Acting Ministers

8 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Shane Jones cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities and that Rt Hon Winston Peters cover my foreign affairs and disarmament responsibilities, between 15 and 22 June 2019.

Costs of Travel

9 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party to be covered by a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel:

Airfares	\$23,288
Accommodation:	\$3,000
Hospitality and gifts:	\$500
Meals and incidentals	\$1,800
Contingency	\$2,000
Total	\$30,588

10 Expenditure of up to \$30,588 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Proactive Release

11 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

12 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to the Federated States of Micronesia from 15 to 22 June 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 \$30,588 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that my regional development responsibilities be covered by Minister Jones from 15 to 22 June 2019; and
- e) **agree** that my foreign affairs and disarmament responsibilities be covered by Minister Peters from 15 to 22 June 2019.

Approved for lodgement

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