



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE
Cabinet and Parliamentary Services
Office of the Premier

Press Statement:

Niue Premier's response to announcement's made by the Australian Prime Minister in an Address - "Australia and the Pacific: A new chapter" - Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, QLD - Thursday 8 November 2018

Alofi, 8th November 2018

In a wide-ranging speech by the Australian Prime Minister the Honourable Scott Morrison, the Premier of Niue, Hon Sir Toke Talagi was encouraged by the address at the Lavarack Barracks.

He believes that the announcements would not only enhance Australia's diplomatic and security presence in the region through efforts to strengthen stability and security, but also demonstrated that the Prime Minister was sensitive to and understood the needs of all of the members of the Pacific Forum including Small Island States.

The Premier was pleased with efforts to protect the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders through combatting illegal fishing and the impacts of transnational crime, but also the impacts of climate change.

Of particular note the Sir Toke saw the need for Pacific neighbours to work together in terms of the security of the region and welcomed the decision to establish a diplomatic post in Niue.

Together with the recent announcement by New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters increasing its diplomatic presence in the Pacific region, the Premier saw these moves as positive steps to promoting security and stability but also closer ties with the two countries.

The Premier commended the investment in economic development in the region, particularly the potential investment in infrastructure projects signalled by the creation of the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) and the increased investment in Australia's Export Financing Agency.

Sir Toke acknowledged the assistance provided by Australia in support of education that included the building of a new Primary School and educational scholarships that benefited Niuean students.

Sir Toke is also pleased with Australia's support for waste management through a purpose-built facility that will manage waste collection, disposal and recycling, and other waste activities.

The Premier was looking forward to increasing the dialogue with Australia on the economic and social issues affecting the country and a closer relationship that a diplomatic post in Niue will bring.

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