

## THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

**FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING**

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 8 – 12 May 2023

**TI 02: AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND MARITIME ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC**

[Submitted by NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade &amp; Maritime New Zealand]

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to inform Transport Ministers about Aotearoa New Zealand's work on maritime safety, maritime security and maritime low carbon transport climate.

**Background**

2. New Zealand continues to play a significant role in Pacific maritime issues. This includes continued activities in seven Pacific States (Cook Islands, Kiribati Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu) by Maritime New Zealand-led Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP), assistance to States on Port Security, and new work underway investigating potential investments in climate finance transport.

**Current status**

3. The PMSP is in its fourth 3-year funding cycle and continues its focus on working with State regulators and the shipping sector on\_
  - i. *Community Maritime Safety and Awareness* —maritime safety education and awareness to communities and artisan fishers
  - ii. *Regulatory Framework Strengthening* —helping States to develop or update their maritime regulations and develop the skilled personnel they need to oversee them
  - iii. *Marine Sector Education and Training Initiatives* —training opportunities and mentoring of maritime sector officers and operators to international standards
  - iv. *Strengthening of Vessel and Navigation Safety* —supporting operators and regulators in establishing and maintaining safe ship operating procedures and vessel maintenance infrastructure
  - v. *Search and Rescue (SAR) and Oil Spill Response*—working with States to establish and implement SAR and oil spill response plans and providing equipment, training and response exercises -
4. **Annex 1** lists Pacific Maritime Safety Programme activities in the Pacific

**Issues**

5. While significant investment and in country engagement continues in the seven PMSP States, big challenges remain. While progress is made, the sector suffers from inadequate resources and expertise with the regulators, poor maintenance and safety practices by operators and owners, and inadequate funds to invest in vessels. Other States not receiving PMSP services have similar challenges. While New Zealand has extended funding for a further four years to the seven PMSP States, we are unable to assist other Pacific Island Countries.
6. A number of maritime security issues are now being recognised, including lack of compliance with International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS). Maritime New Zealand is working with a number of States and the US Coast Guard on port inspections and corrective action follow up. Some attention is also being given to the need for increased oversight on outsourced

flag state registries, which pose safety risks and may not meet international labour standards. New Zealand is assisting some States with flag state oversight.

7. In the climate change area, Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to support Pacific States in addressing climate change. New Zealand advocates-
  - i. global ambition on climate action aligned with the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature limit•
  - ii. outcomes that support Pacific resilience
  - iii. just and equitable transition so that no country is left behind
  - iv. climate finance –New Zealand has a global climate finance commitment of NZ\$1.3 billion over four years (2022--2025) for adaptation, mitigation and resilience. At least half of this will go to the Pacific.
8. We are also committed to amplifying Pacific voices in regional and multilateral fora, such as the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

### Recommendations

9. Transport Ministers are invited to:
  - a. **note** and **commend** Aotearoa New Zealand's for it activities and commitment in the maritime sector, including maritime safety, maritime security and maritime climate finance.

*Date: 17 April 2023*

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**Annex 1****Pacific Maritime Safety Programme activities in the Pacific**

Key examples of successful Pacific Maritime Safety Programme assistance include-

- **Legislative reform** - Supported Niue with development and enactment of Maritime Safety Act (2021). Drafting maritime safety legislation, including community legislation, consultation and policy help in Tokelau, Cook Islands and Samoa.
- **Domestic Shipping Safety** Development of safety management systems, survey management systems, survey and inspection of vessels.
- **Provided safety equipment** and wrap around training to commercial and artisanal fishers in Kiribati, Cook Islands and Niue.
- **Managed repair project** of *MV Manu Folau* for Tuvalu with NZ International Development International Development Cooperation funding.
- **Community Education** Safety campaigns across all PMSP countries.
- **E--Learning modules** developed for remote delivery of training/education, especially valuable with travel restrictions (COVID 19).
- **Oil Spill Response, Search and Rescue** equipment/training provided to Niue, Samoa & Tonga.