



## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Minister of Finance and Infrastructure met with H.E Ms Louise Ellerton, High Commissioner to Australia for Bilateral Discussions**

**21 March 2022 – Alofi, Niue** – Government of Niue (GON) Minister of Finance and Infrastructure, Hon. Crossley Tatui and Her Excellency Ms Louise Ellerton today participated in a bilateral discussion at Fale Fono II, Halamahaga and discussed Australia’s development assistance program, budget and the expected program outcomes.

Niue has enjoyed close relations with Australia over the years. It has elevated that mutual trust to a new level by setting up a diplomatic office in Niue since May 2020. The friendly ties are underpinned by the growing Niuean diaspora communities in Australia, contributing to the Australian economy, social landscape, and multi-cultural diversity.

Hon. Crossley Tatui says the meeting demonstrates Australia’s increasing importance to Niue’s national development to achieve fiscal sustainability and enhanced social development.

“Two crucial focal areas aim to increase the accessibility of quality services for the well-being of our people and build resilience in sustainable budgeting and infrastructure management from natural disasters and Climate Change impacts”, said Minister Tatui.

“Specific goals from the aid programs should see Niuean graduates using their acquired qualifications and skills to contribute to Niue’s social and economic development. In addition, the ongoing small grants funding support to benefit village communities and civil society,”.

Ms Louise Ellerton emphasized the importance of ‘growing Niue’s International Trust Fund to help support Niue’s fiscal sustainability and supporting critical infrastructure which can deliver clear and sustainable development outcomes.

Minister Tatui said he was pleased with the support program as it contributes to the revised Niue development plan framework and aligns with Australia’s COVID-19 strategy ‘Partnerships for Recovery’.

“We live in difficult times due to the global events beyond our control. The best we can do is progress current reform programs and outstanding work like the audit recommendations to enhance Niue’s profile as a trustworthy development partner and country”, said Hon. Tatui.

Australia’s official development assistance (bilateral allocation) to Niue for 2021-2022 is estimated to be AU\$1.4million.

**ENDS**