



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND SUPPORT MISSION STRENGTHENS NIUE'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE CAPABILITY

Alofi, Niue – 08 October 2026 - The Government of Niue welcomes the arrival this evening of a C-130 support mission providing specialist wildfire response personnel, drone reconnaissance capability, technical expertise, and fire appliance training to strengthen Niue's ongoing response and preparedness efforts.

The fire truck deployed as part of this support had already been procured for Niue through arrangements with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and was scheduled to arrive on the November shipping service. Its early deployment with the support of the New Zealand Defence Force ensures this important asset is available during the current Yellow Alert period.

The Government of Niue sincerely thanks the Government of New Zealand for their timely assistance and continued partnership. This support demonstrates the strong relationship between our countries and reinforces our collective commitment to protecting communities and strengthening resilience to wildfire risks.

Acting Prime Minister Ritchie Mautama said, "We are thankful for the swift support provided by Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the Government of New Zealand. The early deployment of a fire truck already procured for Niue, together with specialist personnel and technical expertise, significantly strengthens our wildfire response capability at a critical time."

Yellow Alert Declared for Drought and Extreme Fire Risk

On 6 October 2026, the National Disaster Council declared a Yellow Alert (Imminent Threat) for the whole of Niue due to continuing drought conditions, extremely high fire risk, ongoing below-average rainfall and high winds, and increasing impacts on public infrastructure and communities. The decision follows a series of fire incidents that have resulted in damage to critical water infrastructure and plantations, while also placing homes, property, and essential services at significant risk. The escalation from Blue Alert to Yellow Alert reflects the Council's assessment that the threat has moved beyond a potential hazard and now requires immediate protective action, including the implementation of a total burn ban and enhanced monitoring and enforcement measures.

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Anzee Mougavalu, GON Communications Officer, Email: NiueGovernment.Media@gov.nu