



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
HON MARK BROWN  
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

MEDIA RELEASE

PRIME MINISTER ENCOURAGED BY PM ARDERN'S COMMENTS RE  
COOK ISLANDS / NEW ZEALAND QUARANTINE FREE TRAVEL  
8 NOVEMBER 2020

Prime Minister – Mark Brown – is encouraged by comments New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern made at her post Cabinet press conference this afternoon.

Addressing the country during the national prayer service for thanksgiving and protection from the Covid-19 pandemic PM Brown acknowledged the comments of PM Ardern.

Talks between Cook Islands and New Zealand are on-going and officials from New Zealand will arrive in Rarotonga this coming Friday where face-to-face talks and site visits will take place to pave the way for two-way quarantine free travel (QFT). Cook Islands officials in New Zealand will undertake a similar exercise.

“I am heartened by PM Ardern’s comment that things are “moving positively” and appreciate that the NZ Cabinet took the time to discuss this quarantine free travel agreement at today’s Cabinet meeting”.

Whilst no timeframe has been agreed for the start of QFT, I concur with PM Ardern’s remarks that it would likely start a couple of weeks after both sides have reached an agreement.

“I agree with PM Ardern that no decision will be made unless we are both assured of the safety of both our people’s in any proposed arrangement. Our people’s safety is paramount” Mr Brown concluded.

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