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**Sent:** 24 August 2017 13:51

**To:** Joseph Brider

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**Subject:** Re: SPREP Meeting 2017 - Proposed Member Paper on Pacific Wide Ban on Asbestos

Dear Joseph,

On behalf of Tonga's SPREP focal point, Mr Paula Ma'u, I would like to convey our support to the intervention put forth by yourself on behalf of Cook Island regarding agenda item 10.1. Appreciate adding Tonga to the text on number 17 of the intervention.

This email serves to confirm our continuous support and commitment towards a Cleaner Pacific.

See you at the 28SM.

Malo,  
Le'o

On Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 1:06 PM, Joseph Brider <[joseph.briders@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:joseph.briders@cookislands.gov.ck)> wrote:

Kia Orana SPREP Colleagues

As the SPREP Focal Point for Cook Islands and in anticipation of the upcoming SPREP meeting in Samoa, I would like provide a proposed advanced draft paper for pre-consideration and discussion at the upcoming SPREP meeting. The paper is for a Proposed Pacific Wide Ban on Asbestos, and follows on from discussions held at the SPREP Meeting in Niue on such a ban. AS you may recall from the Niue meeting that there were questions raised on the provision of capacity to enforce such a ban and possible trade implications of such as ban. The Cook Islands believes that following successful discussions around the PacWaste 2 and EU funding and a review of WTO and WHO policies and discussions on asbestos, that the time is right to continue dialogue on this matter.

Accordingly, I would like to provide this opportunity for SPREP members to review the advanced draft and provide comment or guidance on improvements or areas requiring further discussion.

We have provided some supporting documentation on types of products in the region (through the NZ Asbestos survey), a summary of public statements made by SPREP members in support of such a ban and case studies on the WTO negotiations and challenges to a ban (page 84 of the WHO and WTO Report).

It is anticipated that such a ban would provide the foundation to regulate the importation of asbestos and asbestos products into the SPREP Pacific countries and territories. It is proposed that the PacWaste 2 project being negotiated by SPREP would provide the capacity to put in place national level monitoring regimes to manage new imports and the ban would provide a basis to support the disposal of existing stockpiles within countries. The ban would be a statement from SPREP members that the impacts of asbestos on the health of small islands and small communities are too great and in order for us to manage it, we need to exclude it altogether.

I look forward to your comments to improve, adapt and if you are in a position to do, letters of support.

Kind Regards and Kia Manuia



**Joseph Brider | Director**

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