



PRIME MINISTER

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SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

The Prime Minister will attend the ninth South Pacific Forum, to be held in Niue, from 17 to 20 September. He will be accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Andrew Peacock.

Mr Fraser said that Australia attached considerable importance to the South Pacific Forum. This annual gathering of South Pacific leaders provided the principal venue for discussion of political issues and questions of economic development of significance to the region.

The Forum was basically an organisation for the Island states. It was a mark of Australia's positive role in the Pacific that it was accepted as a full member and active participant in the Forum.

This year's Forum will discuss several issues of regional concern. The most important will be the proposed convention for the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Agency. Other issues will include transportation, trade and environmental protection.

Mr Fraser said that the priority the Australian Government accorded the Forum reflected the Government's interest in the South Pacific and the growing links it sought to foster with countries in the region. He said he looked forward to renewing contacts with Pacific leaders during his visit to Niue.
