

Wednesday DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 Friday LEX 13147

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Thursday  
- RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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Solomon Islands - Pacer Plus

**S** S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

1005 | Flight S22(1)(a)(ii) to Honiara

**S22(1)(a)(iii)**

0830 | Pacer Plus Ministers Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

1535 | Flight S 22(1)(a)(i) to Brisbane  
S22(1)(a)(ii)

§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

1830 | Pacer Plus Dinner

S22(1)(a)(ii)



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# BRIEF FOR ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS SENATOR THE HON NITA GREEN

## PACER PLUS MINISTERS MEETING: SOLOMON ISLANDS SIDE PROGRAM

Honiara, 26-28 November

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## VISIT OVERVIEW

### Strategic purpose of the visit

Bilateral elements of your (Assistant Minister Green's) visit to Honiara will emphasise the contributions Australia makes to the economy and development of Solomon Islands. It will show that our relationship is about much more than our strong security cooperation, but also that we recognise the link between economic development and security, which Prime Minister Manele has repeatedly highlighted.

As your first visit to Solomon Islands, it is also an opportunity to further develop relationships with key counterparts and demonstrate Australia is a partner open to dialogue and committed to responding to Solomon Islands' priorities.

Engagements will build on your attendance at the Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum (ASIBF) in Brisbane last week (19 November), where you met PM Manele and a number of ministers and announced Australian funding for the Adamasia undersea cable.

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

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## VISIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PACER Plus** - *Refer PACER Plus brief*

#### **The Pacific Australia Skills program in Solomon Islands**

During a dedicated side event, you will launch the Solomon Islands component of Australia's new regional skills program, Pacific Australia Skills (2025-29, \$229.5 million in regional funding). The program focuses on skills for employment and continues Australia's longstanding support for skills and training in the region, building on its predecessor, the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC, 2007-2025).

This event is one of many separate bilateral launch events planned for participating countries. Pacific Australia Skills was announced in the 2025-26 Federal Budget on 25 March 2025, via the *Development Budget Summary 2025-26*. Minister Conroy formally launched Pacific Australia Skills during his University of Newcastle speech on 20 November.

#### **Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence against Women and Girls (PAVE)**

An announcement of AU\$2.5 million over five years for Solomon Islands, comprising of AU\$1.3million for the Family Support Centre and AU\$1.2 million for the Christian Care Centre to augment Australia's existing support to crucial gender-based violence service providers. The launch at Heritage Park Hotel, will include Family Support Centre, Christian Care Centre staff and other stakeholders and falls within the 16 Days of Activism, an annual international campaign to end gender-based violence that has a high profile in Solomon Islands. Foreign Minister Wong will likely have launched the region-wide PAVE on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls). The program is already public.

## PROGRAM

Wednesday 26 November

Local Time	Canberra Time
S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1415	1415
<b>Arrive Honiara, Solomon Islands</b>	
<u>Venue:</u> VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport	
<u>Attire:</u> Business attire	
<u>Met by:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E. Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands</li> <li>- TBC SIG representation</li> </ul>	
S22(1) (a)(ii)	
1430-1500	1430-1500
<b>Transfer to Australian High Commission</b>	
<u>Car arrangements:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H.E. Hilton</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii), Mr Cameron Darragh (Minister Counsellor – Political, Visit Coordinator)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary, Visit Liaison Officer), S22(1)(a)(ii) (SIG MFAET Liaison Officer), S22(1)(a)(ii) (photographer)</li> </ul>	
1500-1555	1500-1555
<b>Briefing with Australia's High Commissioner and senior executive</b>	
<u>Venue:</u> RAMSI Room, Australian High Commission–Chancery	
<u>Attire:</u> Business attire	
<u>Met by:</u>	

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deputy High Commissioner Andrew Schloeffel</li> </ul> <p><u>Attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- Mr Darragh</li> <li>- Mr Andrew Cumpston (S22(1)(a)(ii) Assistant Secretary Economic and Trade Branch)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	
1555-1600	Transfer to bilateral meeting	1555-1600
	<p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: Mr Cumpston, S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	
1600-1630	<b>Bilateral meeting with Hon Peter Shanel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade</b>	1600-1630
	<p><u>Venue:</u> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (TBC)</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Business attire</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Counsellor–Political)</li> </ul> <p><u>Host country attendees (TBC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade</li> <li>- TBC SIG officials</li> </ul> <p><u>Australian attendees (TBC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- Mr Cumpston</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><u>Gift:</u> Indigenous print</p>	
1630-1635	Transfer to Heritage Park	1630-1635
	<p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> </ul>	

Local Time		Canberra Time
	- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1635-1800	S22(1)(a)(ii)	1635-1800
1800-1810	Transfer to HOMRES	1800-1810
	<u>Car arrangements:</u>	
	- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Schloeffel	
	- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1810-2030	Dinner: BBQ with small group of Ministers	1810-2030
	<u>Venue:</u> HOMRES	
	<u>Attire:</u> Tropical formal	
	<u>Met by:</u> H.E Hilton	
	<u>Host country attendees:</u>	
	- Minister for Culture/Tourism Choylin Douglas	
	- Minister for National Planning and Development Coordination Trevor Mahaga	
	- Minister for Public Service Francis Sade	
	- Minister Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori	
	- Minister for Rural Development Danny Waneoroa	
	- Minister for Education Tozen Leokana	
	- Minister for Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs John Tuhaika Jr.	
	- Minister for Infrastructure Development Ricky Fuo'o	
	<u>Australian attendees:</u>	
	- AM Green	
	- S22(1)(a)(ii)	
	- H. E. Hilton	
	- Mr Schloeffel	
	- Mr Darragh S22(1)(a)(ii)	
	S22(1)(a)(ii)	
2030-2040	Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel	2030-2040
	<u>Car arrangements:</u>	
	- AUS1: AM Green, S22(1)(a)(ii)	
	- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)	
2040	End of official engagements	2040

Thursday 27 November - Refer to PACER Plus Brief

Friday 28 November

Local Time	Canberra Time
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S22(1)(a)(ii)

0820-0945	<p><b>Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Women of Influence' series breakfast</b></p> <p><i>Venue: GGs restaurant, Heritage Park</i></p> <p><i>Met by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <p><i>Host country attendees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori</li> <li>- Minister for Public Service Francis Sade</li> </ul> <p><i>Australian attendees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><i>Attire: Business casual for the day's engagements</i></p>	0820-0945
0945	<p><b>Transfer to Heritage Park Gallery</b></p> <p><i>Met by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	0945
0945-1015	<p><b>Launch AUD2.5 million funding for Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PAVE)</b></p> <p><i>Venue: Heritage Park Gallery</i></p> <p><i>Met by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Counsellor–Human Development)</li> </ul> <p><i>Key attendees:</i></p>	0945-1015



Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	
1015-1050	<p><i>Refresh and departure from Heritage Park</i></p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E Hilton</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1015-1050
1050-1100	<p><i>Transfer to Kwaimani Building</i></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii), Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1050-1100
1100-1150	<p><b>Launch of Pacific Australia Skills (PAS) in Solomon Islands</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Skills training classroom, Kwaimani Building</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Second Secretary)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Leokana</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1100-1150
1150-1220	<p><b>Media doorstep</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Kwaimani Building, Room One</p> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1150-1220
1220-1250	<p><i>Transfer to Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm</i></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel,</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1220-1250
1250-1400	<b>Lunch with local tourism operators</b>	1250-1400

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<p><u>Venue:</u> Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm (Kaviki Beach)</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Douglas</li> <li>- Ms Grace Fekau, Owner of Amazing Grace</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	
1400-1415	<p>Transfer to Honiara airport</p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1400-1415
1415-1515	<p><b>Informal engagement with other departing ministers</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport</p> <p><u>Key attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Fata Ryan Schuster, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour, Samoa</li> <li>- Hon Kapelieli Lanumata, Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Tonga</li> <li>- Hon Tingika Elikana, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands</li> <li>- Hon Crossley Tatui, Minister for Finance and Infrastructure, Niue</li> <li>- Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, New Zealand</li> </ul>	1415-1515
1535	<p><b>Depart Honiara</b> S22(1)(a)(iii)</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport</p> <p><u>Farewelled by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E. Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands</li> <li>- TBC SIG representation</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1535
S22(1)(a)(ii)		
End of program		

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## BILATERAL MEETING BRIEF

THE HON. PETER SHANEL AGOVAKA  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE

### Handling note

This is your (Assistant Minister Green) second bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Shanel. No statement will be delivered after the meeting. You have previously exchanged gifts and will exchange a small gift once again. A photo may be taken. No media will be present.

S33(a)(iii)

**Talking Points – *Refer to Attachment A1***

**Cheat Sheet – *Refer to Attachment A2***

## **Background**

### *Pacific Island Forum (PIF)*

The 54th PIF Leaders' Meeting was hosted by Solomon Islands on 8-12 September in Honiara and Noro (Western Province). Solomon Islands will remain PIF Chair until late 2026.

As a fellow member of the PIF and at the request of Solomon Islands Government, Australia provided a comprehensive package of support to Solomon Islands to host the Leaders' Meeting. This included the provision of 61 security vehicles, support for cybersecurity, upgrades to Honiara's roads, and approximately \$3 million for logistics support and to fund a PIF-related officer in the Solomon Islands UNNY mission (refer key issue brief).

### *Ocean of Peace Declaration*

On 10 September, the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration was agreed by PIF Leaders. Building on Fiji Prime Minister Rabuka's vision, the declaration denotes peace and security as a shared responsibility of PIF members.

### *Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF)*

As a Pacific-led, owned and managed financing facility, the PRF will meet identified climate finance gaps, by providing small-scale grants to local communities. The Agreement to establish the PRF was signed by 15 PIF Leaders at the PIF Leaders' Meeting in September 2025. Samoa, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia are expected to sign at a later stage. Australia is investing AU\$100 million in the PRF and Solomon Islands announced a USD1million contribution.

### *Labour Mobility*

PALM is a valued element of our economic partnership with Solomon Islands. At the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (Honiara 4-7 November) PM Manele's remarks focussed on the importance of reintegration strategies and partner countries creating enabling environments to capitalise on opportunities generated by cohorts of experienced and skilled returning workers.

S33(a)(iii)

### *Resourcing Labour Mobility in PACER Plus*

At the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting, Members called for the principal donors (Australia and New Zealand) to sustainably resource labour mobility under PACER Plus.

Australia is supportive of progressing regional labour mobility policy through PACER Plus.

S47E(d), S33(a)(iii)

### Transnational organised crime and narcotics

At the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in September this year, Prime Minister Albanese joined Pacific leaders in calling for a coordinated regional response to transnational organised crime [PIF Leaders Communique paras 41 and 42].

Three narco-subS have been found in Solomon Islands over the past year, with the most recent detected in October 2025. Another narco-sub was previously found on Clipperton Island, an uninhabited French atoll in the Pacific, in late 2024. Media report the narco-subS likely originated in South America. Prime Minister Manele has expressed his concern that Solomon Islands is no longer a transit point but also a market for drug use.

Australia supports Pacific-led responses to transnational organised crime, including by: building Pacific law enforcement capacity; supporting the regional law enforcement architecture, including the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and the Pacific Transnational Crime Network; technical assistance and capacity building in anti-money laundering, and proceeds of crime; delivering patrol boats and regional aerial surveillance through the Pacific Maritime Security Program providing sovereign capability to monitor and protect Exclusive Economic Zones.

### Hydrographic and maritime boundaries support

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) is the Primary Charting Authority for Solomon Islands. Through this arrangement, the AHO produces, and maintains Solomon Islands' portfolio of paper nautical charts, electronic navigational charts and nautical publications.

S47E(d), S33(a)(iii)

## Biography

Peter SHANEL Agovaka

Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

SOLOMON ISLANDS



**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii) S33(a)(iii)

**Year of Birth:** 1959

**Education:** Telekom College, Papua New Guinea  
North Sydney Institute of Engineering

### Career:

2024-present Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

2015-2024 Minister of Communication and Aviation

2014-2015 Minister of Police and National Security and Correction Services

s33(a)  
(iii),  
s47(E)(d)

SEATING PLAN

Bilateral Meeting – Foreign Minister Shanel and Assistant Minister Green

OFFICIAL



**S22  
(1)  
(a)  
(ii)**  
Desk Officer  
(note-taker)



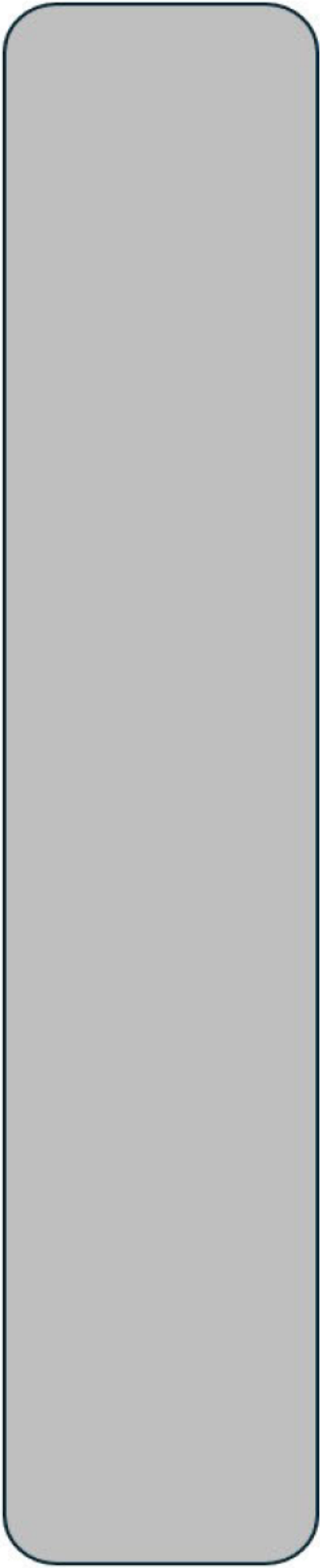
**Mr Colin Beck**  
Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and External



**Hon Peter Agovaka Shanel**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and External Trade



**HE Robert Sisilo**  
High Commissioner to  
Australia



**Mr Andrew Cumpston**  
Assistant Secretary,  
Pacific Economic and  
Trade



**Mr Andrew Schloeffel**  
Deputy High  
Commissioner



**S22(1)(a)(ii)**  
Adviser to Minister  
Green



**Senator the Hon Nita Green**  
Assistant Minister for Pacific  
Island Affairs



**HE Rod Hilton**  
High Commissioner to  
Solomon Islands

**S22(1)(a)(ii)**

**S2  
2(1)  
(a)  
(ii)**  
Political Counsellor  
(note-taker)



OFFICIAL



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## EVENT BRIEFS

### BBQ WITH SMALL GROUP OF MINISTERS

<b>Time and Place</b>  Wednesday, 26  November  6:30pm-8:30pm  High Commissioner's Residence, Honiara	<b>Key attendees</b>  Hon Choylin Yim Douglas, Minister of Culture and Tourism  Hon Ricky Fuo'o, Minister of Infrastructure Development  Hon Tozen Leokana, Minister of Education and Human Resources Development  Hon Trevor Mahaga, Minister of National Planning and Development Coordination  Hon Cathy Nori, Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs  Hon Francis Sade, Minister of Public Service  Hon John Tuhaika, Minister of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs  Hon Daniel Waneoroa, Minister of Rural Development
<b>Handling note</b>  The event will be an informal barbeque dinner at the High Commissioner's Residence. <span style="color: red;">S4 7E( d)</span>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span style="color: red;">S22(1)(a)(ii)</span> <span>The High Commissioner will</span> </div> make some short introductory remarks, before inviting you (Assistant Minister Green) to speak (suggested below). A prayer will precede the meal. The invitation stipulated gifts were not necessary. Media will not be present.  <span style="color: red;">S47E(d), S33(a)(iii)</span>	

**Strategic context**

S33(a)(iii)

**Attire**

Tropical formal (e.g. bright dress or shirt).

**Event run sheet**

Local Time		Canberra Time
<b>1800</b>	Depart Heritage Park Hotel  <i>Accompanied by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr Andrew Schloeffel, Deputy High Commissioner</i></li> </ul>	1800
<b>1810</b>	You (Assistant Minister Green) arrive High Commissioner's Residence  <i>Met by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>H.E. Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner</i></li> </ul>	1810
<b>1810-1830</b>	Event pre-brief  <i>Joined by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>H.E. Rod Hilton</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Andrew Schloeffel</i></li> </ul>	1810-1830
<b>1830</b>	Solomon Islands Government Ministers arrive  <i>Met by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>You (Assistant Minister Green)</i></li> <li>- <i>H.E. Rod Hilton</i></li> </ul>	1830
<b>1858</b>	Introduction by H.E. Rod Hilton	1858
<b>1900</b>	Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)	1900
<b>1905</b>	Remarks by Minister Trevor Mahaga	1905
<b>1910</b>	Buffet service (Minister Cathy Nori to say grace)	1910
<b>1915-2030</b>	BBQ dinner with eight Solomon Islands Ministers  <i>Joined by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>H.E. Rod Hilton</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Andrew Schloeffel, Deputy High Commissioner</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Cameron Darragh, Minister Counsellor</i></li> </ul>	1915-2030
<b>2030-2045</b>	Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel  <i>Accompanied by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr Cameron Darragh, Minister Counsellor</i></li> </ul>	2030-2045

**Talking Points – Refer to Attachment B1****Cheat Sheet – Refer to Attachment B2**

## Event biographies

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**Choylin Yim DOUGLAS**

**Minister of Culture and Tourism**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Central Province

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Ricky FUO'O [Foo-Oh]**

**Minister of Infrastructure Development**

**Party:** People First Party

**Province of Origin:** Malaita

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Tozen LEOKANA [Leo-car-na]**

**Minister of Education and Human Resources Development**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Choiseul

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Trevor MAHAGA**

**Minister of National Planning and Development Coordination**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Isabel

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Cathy NORI [Naw-ree]**

**Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Isabel

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Francis SADE [Sah-day]**

**Minister of Public Service**

**Party:** People First Party

**Province of Origin:** Guadalcanal

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**John TUHAIKA [Too-High-Kah] Junior**

**Minister of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs**

**Party:** People First Party

**Province of Origin:** Rennell and Bellona

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Daniel WANEOROA [Waa-neh-o-row-a]**

**Minister of Rural Development**

**Party:** Umi4Change Party

**Province of Origin:** Malaita

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

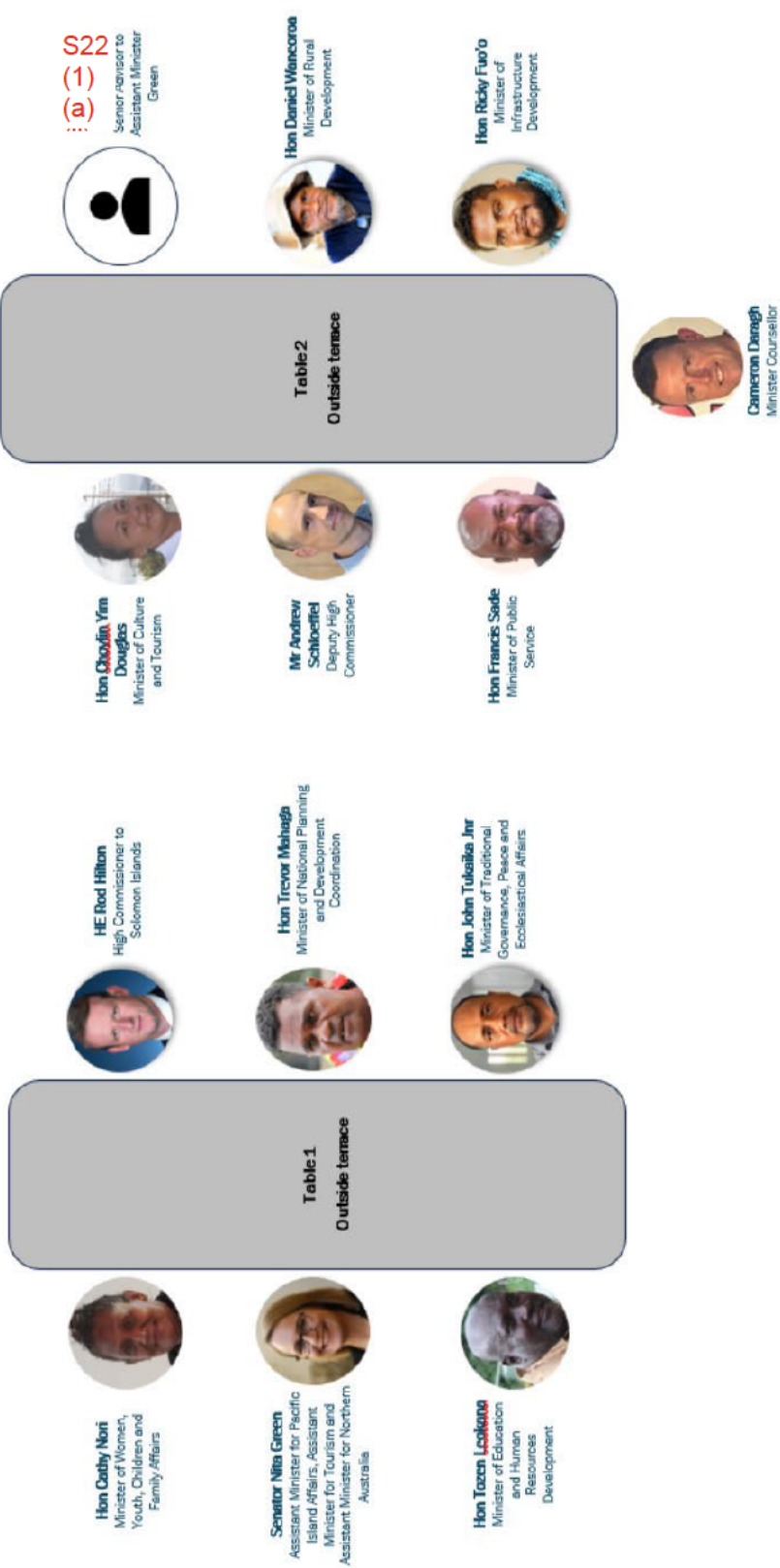
Event Seating Plan



SEATING PLAN

Informal Barbeque – Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Green  
with Ministers Douglas, Fua'o, Leokana, Mehega, Nori, Sade, Tubalika  
and Wentecora

26 November 2025 - 1830 - 2030





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## WOMEN OF INFLUENCE BREAKFAST

<p><b>Time and Place</b></p> <p>Friday 28 November</p> <p>8:20am – 9:45am</p> <p>Heritage Park Hotel – GG's Restaurant</p>	<p><b>Key attendees</b></p> <p>Hon Francis Sade, Minister of Public Service</p> <p>Hon Cathy Nori, Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs</p> <p>Solomon Manea, Director of the Ministry of Public Service's Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM)</p>
<p><b>Handling note</b></p> <p>This event will launch the second Women of Influence series which, through public events and materials, highlights and celebrates the leadership, contribution, and influence of Solomon Islands women in the public sector. The initiative is a collaboration with the Solomon Islands Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.</p> <p>The event will reflect on the success of the Ministry of Public Service's Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) pilot mentoring program, supporting women in public service to develop their leadership skills, and launch a new phase of that program.</p> <p>The Women of Influence series and IPAM pilot mentoring program are funded by Australia.</p> <p>On arrival, you (Assistant Minister Green) will be seated at a table at the front of the room, with Minister for Women Cathy Nori and Minister of Public Service Francis Sade.</p> <p>You will have a 5 minute speaking slot during which you will launch the second Women of Influence series and announce Australia's support for the next phase of IPAM's mentoring program.</p> <p>A videographer will take footage throughout the event. There will be a group photo after the panel discussion. Local media will be present.</p> <p>The profiled Women of Influence are detailed below on page 29.</p> <p><b>Strategic context</b></p> <p>This event takes place during the 16 Days of Activism campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls. This is a global event, with Solomon Islands participation being coordinated by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (25 November—10 December 2025).</p>	

**Event run sheet**

Local Time		Canberra Time
<b>0800 – 0810</b>	Arrival of guests	0800 – 0810
<b>0810 – 0820</b>	Solomon Islands Government Ministers arrive: Hon Francis Sade, Minister of Public Service; and Hon Cathy Nori, Minister for Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs	0810 – 0820
<b>0820</b>	You (Assistant Minister Green) arrive GG's Restaurant	0820
	Met by:	
	- S22(1)(a)(ii) First Secretary Economic	
<b>0820– 0825</b>	Welcome and Prayer (S22(1)(a)(ii) )	0820 – 0825
<b>0825 – 0830</b>	Opening remarks by Hon Francis Sade, Minister of Public Service	0825 – 0830
<b>0830 – 0900</b>	The Women of Influence series begins with an introduction of this year's featured individuals and continues with a panel discussion led by the MC.	0830 – 0900
<b>0900 – 0905</b>	Launch of Women of Influence series (group photo)	0900 – 0905
<b>0905 – 0910</b>	Introduction of mentoring program by IPAM Director, Solomon Manea	0905 – 0910
<b>0910 – 0915</b>	Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)	0910 – 0915
<b>0915 – 0920</b>	Closing remarks by Hon Cathy Nori, Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	0915 – 0920
<b>0920</b>	Official event ends, breakfast buffet begins	0920
<b>0920 - 0945</b>	Opportunity to have breakfast and network with profiled "Women of Influence", Minister Nori and Minister Sade	0920 – 0930
<b>0945</b>	Together with Minister Nori, you (Assistant Minister Green) walk to the PAVE launch (close by at Heritage Park).	0945
	Met by:	
	- S22(1)(a)(ii) First Secretary Gender Equality & Civil Society	

**Remarks – Refer to Attachment C1****Cheat Sheet – Refer to Attachment C2**

## EVENT BIOGRAPHIES



**Francis SADE [Sah-day]**

**Minister of Public Service**

**Party:** People First Party

**Province of Origin:** Guadalcanal

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



**Cathy NORI [Naw-ree]**

**Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Isabel

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

## WOMEN OF INFLUENCE PROFILES

The Women of Influence series includes published profiles of the selected women leaders.

S22(1)(a)(ii)

**Patricia Leta:** *Assistant Commissioner of Police, Crime and Intelligence, Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (Royal Solomon Islands Police Force)* Patricia Leta's story spans decades of service, sacrifice, and transformation. Joining the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force straight out of Form 3, Patricia patiently navigated the male-dominated and deeply hierarchical organisation to rise to the position of Assistant Commissioner of Police, breaking many glass ceilings along the way. Fairness, honesty and neutrality have been core values during her 37 years of policing, alongside a commitment to building strong and respectful relationships with the people and communities she serves.

**Ronnelle Panda:** *Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.* Becoming Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning before the age of 30 despite working in a male-dominated field, Ronnelle Panda's rapid rise in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is testament to her dedication to learning. Now she is paving the way for a more diverse and inclusive public service by refreshing the Ministry's gender mainstreaming and inclusion policies, all while supporting the country's economically essential fisheries sector.

**Florence Barimata Joel:** *Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.* Starting in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as a fresh graduate, Florence Barimata Joel's rise to Deputy Secretary to Cabinet in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been based on hard work, commitment, respect, continuous learning and a strong work ethic. As a public servant and leader, her work has centered on upholding the law and the best interests of the community.

**Needy Taingeia:** *Acting Assistant Commissioner of Corporate Services at the Correctional Service Solomon Islands (CSSI),* has spent 16 years advancing both her own career in public service, while also opening doors for other women through workplace gender equality reform. Her journey — from a Form 5 graduate and young mother to a senior public servant shaping policy in one of the country's most male-dominated institutions — is proof of what resilience, education, and self-belief can achieve.

## LAUNCH \$2.5 MILLION FUNDING FOR PACIFIC STRONG: AMPLIFYING ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (PAVE)

<p><b>Time and Place</b></p> <p>Friday, 28 November</p> <p>9:45am – 10:15am</p> <p>Heritage Park Hotel, Club Conference Room, Honiara</p>	<p><b>Key attendees</b></p> <p>Hon Cathy Nori, Minister for Women, Youth Children and Family Affairs</p> <p>Florence Taro, Program Manager, Christian Care Centre</p> <p>Lorio Sisiolo, Centre Manager, Family Support Centre</p> <p>Afu Billy, President of the National Council of Women</p> <p>Representatives from:</p> <p>Women’s Rights Action Movement</p> <p>West ‘Are’Are Rokotanikeni [are-ay-are-ay rock-oh-tah-knee-ken-ee] Association (WARA)</p> <p>Disability Women’s Empowerment Association (DWEA)</p> <p>Vois Blong Mere Solomon Islands</p>
<p><b>Handling note</b></p> <p>You (Assistant Minister Green) will deliver formal remarks and announce PAVE funding for the Christian Care Centre and Family Support Centre.</p> <p><b>Strategic Context</b></p> <p>This event takes place during the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls campaign. PAVE: Pacific Strong – Amplifying Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls – is an AUD 25 million regional program across nine Pacific countries. This event marks the Solomon Islands-specific launch for local partners (AUD 2.5 million / SBD 13 million). Foreign Minister Penny Wong will likely have launched the region-wide PAVE on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls).</p>	

## Event run sheet

Local Time		Canberra Time
<b>0945</b>	<p>You (Assistant Minister Green) and Minister Nori depart GG's restaurant together on foot and proceed upstairs to Heritage Park Gallery 2</p> <p><i>Accompanied by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b> <i>First Secretary for Gender Equality and Civil Society</i></li> </ul>	0945
<b>0945-0950</b>	<p>You (Assistant Minister Green) and Minister Nori are introduced to key guests and grant recipients</p> <p><i>Met by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b> <i>Counsellor for Human Development</i></li> </ul>	0945-0950
<b>0950</b>	<i>Welcome by MC (Counsellor, <b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b>)</i>	0950
<b>0950-0955</b>	<p>Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)</p> <p>Announcement of PAVE grants to Family Support Centre and Christian Care Centre (CCC)</p>	0950-0955
<b>0955-1000</b>	Brief Remarks by Lorio Sisiolo, Centre Manager, Family Support Centre (FSC)	0955-1000
<b>1000-1005</b>	Brief Remarks by Florence Taro, Centre Manager, Christian Care Centre (CCC)	1000-1005
<b>1005-1010</b>	[TBC] Brief Remarks by Honourable Cathy Nori MP, Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	1005-1010
<b>1010-1015</b>	Cake cutting and photograph with you (Assistant Minister Green), Family Support Centre, Christian Care Centre and Minister Nori [TBC]	1010-1015

**Remarks – Refer to Attachment D**

## Event Biographies

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**Cathy NORI [Naw-ree]**

**Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Isabel

**S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)**



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## LAUNCH OF PACIFIC AUSTRALIA SKILLS PROGRAM IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

<p><b>Time and Place</b></p> <p>Friday, 28 November</p> <p>11:00am-11:50pm</p> <p>Kwaimani Skills Hub, Kukum, Honiara</p>	<p><b>Key attendees</b></p> <p>Hon Tozen Leokana, Minister for Education and Human Resource Development</p> <p>Mr Franco Rodie, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development</p> <p>Ms Constance Nasi, CEO Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority</p> <p>Mr Solomon Pita, Director SINU TAFE</p>
<p><b>Handling note</b></p> <p>You (Assistant Minister Green) will launch the Solomon Islands elements of the Pacific Australia Skills (PAS) program. You will be accompanied by Education Minister Hon Tozen Leokana to visit two training rooms at the Kwaimani Skills Hub (Pacific Australia Skills' training facility in Honiara).</p> <p>You will first enter a room showcasing skills training facilities and meet hospitality students who will demonstrate their training and serve drinks <sup>S22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>.</p> <p>You will then move to a second room to view images of the training program and formally launch Pacific Australia Skills in Solomon Islands. Key skills sector stakeholders will attend. You will deliver remarks and participate in a cake cutting and photo. Local media will be present.</p> <p><sup>S33(a)(iii),</sup> <sup>S47E(d)</sup></p>	

**Event run sheet**

Local Time		Canberra Time
1050	Depart Heritage Park Hotel	1050
1100	You (Assistant Minister Green) arrive at the Training Centre, Kwaimani Building	1100
	Met by:	
	- S22(1)(a)(ii) Second Secretary Economic	
1105	S22(1)(a)(ii)	1105
1107	Meet and greet with students in Room 1, coffee and juices served	1107
1115	You (Assistant Minister Green) and Minister Leokana proceed to Room 2	1115
1115	Enter Room 2 and view program posters, images on display	1115
	Met by:	
	- PAS Country Director Atenasi Ata, who will guide you through printed images and to your seat	
1117	Minister Green and Minister Leokana guided to seats for formal program	1117
1120	MC starts formal program Opening prayer	1120
1125	Remarks by Minister Leokana	1125
1130	Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)	1130
1135	MC closes formal event and directs to cake cutting	
1140	Ceremonial cake cutting	1135
1145	Formal photos with key stakeholders	1140
1150	Media Doorstop	1150
1220	Transfer to Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm	1220

**Remarks – Refer to Attachment E**

## Event biographies

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**Tozen LEOKANA [Leo-car-na]**

**Minister of Education and Human Resources Development**

**Party:** OUR Party

**Province of Origin:** Choiseul

**S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)**

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## LUNCH WITH LOCAL TOURISM OPERATORS

<p><b>Time and Place</b></p> <p>Friday, 28 November</p> <p>12:50 - 14:00</p> <p>Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm, Honiara</p>	<p><b>Key attendees</b></p> <p>Hon Choylin Douglas, Minister of Culture and Tourism</p> <p>Mr Bunyan Sivoro, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Tourism</p> <p>Ms Grace Fekau, Owner, Amazing Grace</p> <p>Ms Hazel Bae, Owner, Authentic Mala Tours</p> <p>Ms Hilda Sofaemaena, Owner, Taflabana Guesthouse</p> <p>Mr John and Ms. Karen Foimua, Owners, Travel Solomon</p> <p>Mr Michael Salini, Owner, Star Point Accommodation (former Central Province Premier)</p> <p>Mr Lauri Leketo, Kagata Surf Camp</p>
<p><b>Handling note</b></p> <p>You (Assistant Minister Green) will meet with seven local tourism operators supported by Australia's private sector development program, Strongim Bisnis. You will observe a demonstration of making cocoa and local shell money. Minister of Culture and Tourism, Choylin Douglas, will provide brief remarks followed by remarks from you (2 mins) before an informal lunch.</p> <p>Lunch will be traditional Solomon Islands motu (traditional earth oven) including sweet potato, cassava pudding, and taro along with fish, squid, chicken and pork served with local fruits and beverages. Local media will be present.</p> <p>The featured businesses are located in Honiara (<i>Travel Solomons tourism service</i>), Guadalcanal (<i>Parangiju Lodge, Amazing Grace, Dive Guadalcanal</i>), Central Province (<i>Starpoint</i>), Malaita (<i>Authentic Mala Travel Tours and Taflabana Guesthouse</i>), and Isabel (<i>Kagata Surf Camp</i>).</p> <p><b>Strategic context</b></p> <p>S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)</p>	

## Event run sheet

Local Time		Canberra Time
1250	You (Assistant Minister Green) arrive at Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm  <u>Met by:</u> - Ms Grace Fekau, Owner of Amazing Grace - S22(1)(a)(ii) – First Secretary	1250
1251	You (Assistant Minister Green) and guests receive leis and coconuts Brief welcome by Ms Fekau, Owner of Amazing Grace Cocoa Boutique Farm	1251
1253	You (Assistant Minister Green) and guests are guided to a small leaf hut by Ms Fekau and S22(1)(a)(ii)	1253
1255	Cocoa making demonstration led by Ms Fekau and shell money demonstration led by Ms Hilda Sofaemaena  S22(1)(a)(ii)	1255
1313	You (Assistant Minister Green) and guests are guided to a large leaf hut by Ms Fekau and S22(1)(a)(ii) [Assistant Minister and guests to remain standing]	1313
1315	Welcome remarks from the MC [Tina Pullingi – Strongim Bisnis]	1315
1318	Remarks by Minister of Culture and Tourism, Hon Choylin Douglas	1318
1321	Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)	1321
1324	Grace given by Ms Sofaemaena	1324
1325	You (Assistant Minister Green) are invited to self-serve lunch buffet style, and then sit at a trestle table [two tables, no assigned seating]	1325
1350	Group photo opportunity	1350
1400	Transfer to airport	1400

Remarks – Refer to Attachment F1

Cheat Sheet – Refer to Attachment F2

**Event Biography****Choylin (Choy-leen) Yim Douglas****Minister of Culture and Tourism****Form of Address:** Minister**S33(a)(iii)****Party:** OUR Party**Province of Origin:** Central Province**S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)****Bunyan (Barney) Sivoro****Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Tourism****Form of Address:** Permanent Secretary**S33(a)(iii)****Grace Fekau****Owner, Amazing Grace****Form of Address:** Grace**S33(a)(iii)****Hazel Bae Harohau****Owner, Authentic Mala Tours****Form of Address:** Hazel**S33(a)(iii)**



**Hilda Sofaemaena****Owner, Taflabana Guesthouse****Form of Address: Hilda****S33(a)(iii)****John Foimua****Co-Owner, Travel Solomons****Form of Address: John****S33(a)(iii)****Karen Foimua****Co-Owner, Travel Solomons****Form of Address: Karen****S33(a)(iii)****Michael Salini****Owner, Star Point Accommodation****Form of Address: Michael****S33(a)(iii)****Lauri Leketo****Owner, Kagata Surf Camp****Form of Address: Lauri****S33(a)(iii)**

## OVERVIEW BRIEFS

### Political

Prime Minister Manele has led the Government for National Unity and Transformation coalition since elections in April 2024. S33(a)(iii)

Australia maintains close engagement with Solomon Islands' 50 MPs through visits, scholarship and training opportunities, S33(a)(iii)

### Security

S33(a)(iii)

Australia led the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) from 2003-2017 to restore stability following a period of civil unrest (the 'Tensions'). Our Bilateral Security Treaty was activated from November 2021 to August 2024, with Australian and regional forces providing stability support following civil unrest, and through the Pacific Games and national joint elections.

In December 2024, Australia announced a new partnership to grow the size and capability of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), including a sovereign Police Academy in Honiara, and budget and training support. Prime Ministers agreed to proceed with the design and construction of the Police Academy in the margins of PIF in September 2025. Australia's ongoing security support includes the RSIPF-AFP Policing Partnership Program (since 2019) and Defence Cooperation Program (since 1981). Security-related cooperation includes cyber and border security, and law and justice.

### Economic

Solomon Islands is an archipelago of over 1,000 islands organised into nine provinces. S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

Solomon Islands is the third-largest economy in the Pacific Islands, with a GDP of USD1.6 billion, accounting for almost 4 per cent of the region's GDP.

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

the  
Solomon Islands Government passed the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act in 2025 that provides investors with tax exemptions and incentives, S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

## Development Cooperation

Solomon Islands has the seventh-highest ODA to GDP ratio in the Pacific, with aid accounting for 20 per cent of GDP. Solomon Islands development priorities include infrastructure investment and economic diversification. As Solomon Islands' largest development partner (AUD170.9 million ODA in 2025-26), Australian support centres on nation-building infrastructure, job creation and inclusive economic growth, with engagement across every province and sector. Our Development Partnership Plan was launched in June 2025.

## Gender

Solomon Islands has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence globally. 64 per cent of partnered women aged 15–49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner.

Increasing women's representation in government is a priority for the Solomon Islands Government. Three women were elected to the 50-seat National Parliament [the highest number of women ever elected] following Solomon Islands' 2024 elections. A fourth woman was elected to Parliament in June 2025 following a by-election. Two women currently hold ministerial portfolios: The Hon. Choylin Yim Douglas MP, Minister of Culture and Tourism, and The Hon. Cathy Nori MP, Minister of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs. S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

Australia is Solomon Islands' largest bilateral partner supporting gender equality. Australian support is essential for Solomon Islands to deliver on its National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy. Our program, 'Advancing Gender Equality in Solomon Islands 2024-28' (AUD8.75 million) promotes women's leadership, economic empowerment and gender mainstreaming. While 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls 2024-27' (AUD5 million, 2024-27) supports services for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and will be augmented by the funding you are announcing through PAVE. These investments complement our gender objectives in sectors such as law and justice, education and health infrastructure. In early 2026, the Australian-funded Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre in Honiara will open.

### **Infrastructure**

Australia supports infrastructure projects of all scale in the Solomon Islands. Flagship investments include the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre opening in 2026 (AUD45 million) and contributions to the Tina River Hydropower Development Project. We have also now funded two telecommunications cable connections – the Coral Sea Cable and the Adamasia redundancy cable. We also support a wide range of mid-sized projects, such as community markets, airfield upgrades, and wharves. Australia's Community Partnership program support small scale, climate resilient infrastructure, such as water tanks and solar lighting.

Australia's programs aim to build high-quality, climate-resilient infrastructure, while also building the local capacity to deliver, manage and maintain these assets. S33(a)(iii),

### **Business Engagement Opportunities and Challenges**

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

The Solomon Islands Business Registry<sup>1</sup> lists 507 Australian companies. S47C

S47C

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

## KEY ISSUES BRIEFS

### LABOUR MOBILITY

#### Key Issues

- Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme participating countries highly value the scheme – particularly for remittances, skills training and opportunities for their workers.
  - in the 2024-25 financial year, PALM scheme workers sent an estimated \$450 million in remittances back into the region.
- The Government has committed nearly \$440 million over successive budgets to grow and strengthen the PALM scheme to deliver on the region’s ambitions and meet industry needs.
- The Government is listening and responding to Pacific priorities for more skills development opportunities and is
  - piloting opportunities in the expansion of the PALM scheme into the Early Childhood Education and Care sector for 14 educators from PNG
  - providing the opportunity for workers to attain a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) through the aged care expansion (ACE) program [723 graduates as at October 2025]
  - implementing pilot that allows up to 200 families to live in Australia with PALM workers during their time in Australia.
- S33(a)(iii)
- The Australian Government has introduced a range of measures to strengthen support and protections for PALM scheme workers, including:
  - settings above minimum legislated standards, including minimum hours and pay safety net, increased transparency of deductions and accommodation standards
  - access to welfare and wellbeing support including a 24/7 support line and grievance reporting processes.
- Worker numbers have stabilised since August 2024 – largely due to reduced demand from the agricultural sector
  - S47E(d)

## Background

As at September 2025, there were 31,225 PALM workers in Australia:

- 14,860 were short-term workers and 16,365 were long-term workers
- 55 percent of workers are in the agricultural sector, followed by meat processing (36 per cent)
- 523 approved PALM scheme employers.

### PACER and PALM countries worker numbers – as of September 2025

Kiribati	Nauru	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
1,535	40	2,215	5,075	3,315	290	6,320
PALM scheme countries not in PACER: Fiji, PNG, Timor-Leste						
PACER countries not in the PALM scheme: Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands						

## PACIFIC AUSTRALIA SKILLS – SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Key Issues

- Australia recognises that economic resilience, jobs, and opportunities for young people are a top priority for our partners in Solomon Islands
  - building, retaining and harnessing skills is a crucial part of this.
- Australia's new regional skills program, Pacific Australia Skills (2025-29, SBD1.23 billion (AUD229.5 million)), will deliver skills for jobs, helping meet Solomon Islands' labour market needs and enabling access to job opportunities across the region.
- The program builds on the successes of the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), which ran from 2007 to 2025. In that time, APTC:
  - supported 2,816 Solomon Islanders to graduate with full qualifications, and
  - upskilled a further 5,843 people through short courses and micro credentials.
- Pacific Australia Skills will:
  - deliver quality training and qualifications through Australian and Pacific providers, and help strengthen local training systems, institutions and staff
  - build partnerships between Pacific and Australian education and training systems, realising opportunities for deeper integration
  - work hand in hand with Australia's other programs, including by supporting Solomon Islands' priorities for the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme and infrastructure programs.
- Pacific Australia Skills has a strong focus on inclusion, accessibility, and climate resilience. The program seeks to:
  - remove barriers to participation in training and employment, and empower all Solomon Islanders to access life changing education and training opportunities
  - support skills development activities that enable our Solomon Islands partners to be responsive and resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

S47E(d)



S47E(d)

**Background:**

Australia's longstanding skills investment, APTC, ran from 2007 to March 2025 and was delivered by TAFE Queensland. At the end of APTC's last phase, the opportunity was taken to redesign the program, to make it more flexible and responsive and better able to deliver on our development and strategic objectives.

Pacific Australia Skills, the successor to APTC, officially commenced on 1 April 2025, following an open procurement process that saw DT Global selected as the managing contractor. The program will invest \$229.5 million over 5 years, with a 4-year extension option.

Pacific Australia Skills was announced as part of the 2025-26 Federal Budget on 25 March 2025, via the *Development Budget Summary 2025-26*. Minister Conroy formally launched Pacific Australia Skills during his University of Newcastle speech on 20 November 2025.

S47E(d)

## PIF REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

### Key Issues

- Originally tasked by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders in 2019, the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) aims to shape an effective and fit for purpose regional architecture to deliver on the ambitions of the 2050 Strategy.
- At the 2025 PIF Leaders Meeting, Leaders approved the majority of recommendations for the RRA
  - key decisions for action included:
    - establishing a Forum Foreign Policy (details unclear)
    - reviewing and aligning regional ministerial meetings with the seven thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy, including Peace and Security, People-Centred Development and Technology and Connectivity
    - establishing a mechanism for political dialogue and brokering to manage issues where PIF consensus is at risk
  - Leaders requested officials further consider options for rationalisation of the regional architecture
    - the proposed consolidation of the nine Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies into a three-pillar model was not agreed.
- The recommendations considered by Leaders were developed by a High-Level Persons Group of eminent Pacific persons through consultations with PIF Leaders or their delegates
  - S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)
- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)
  - we are closely engaged in the process, which is being led by the PIF Secretariat.

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## PACIFIC SPORTS COOPERATION: SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Key Issues

- Australia's sports partnership with Solomon Islands provides athletes, coaches and administrators with access to high-performance training and professional development.
- Through the *PacificAus Sports* program, Australia has supported:
  - the first-ever A-League football (soccer) team tour, Brisbane Roar, to Solomon Islands in October 2025
  - Solomon Islands and Vanuatu women's national football teams participation in the Four Nations Cup tournament in Canberra in February 2025
  - professional shadowing program for staff from Pacific football associations, to build capacity in matchday operations and tournament management.
- Funded bilaterally, support for five Solomon Islands players to join State-level Australian leagues has been well-received.
- Since 2023, our sport for development program, Team Up, has helped more than 33,200 Solomon Islander children participate in football, hockey, basketball, table tennis, surfing and athletics (49 per cent have been female)
  - through 'Just Play' we have supported 7,700 Solomon Islander children (46 per cent girls) to access football and life skills training.

S47E(d)

S47E(d)

### Background

***PacificAus Sports*** (AU\$15.6 million non-ODA; AU\$2.5 million ODA per year) develops pathways for Pacific teams, athletes, match officials and administrators to access elite competitions and high-performance coaching in Australia and internationally. In Solomon Islands, Australia has partnerships across football (soccer), basketball, tennis, rugby union and Olympic and

Paralympic sports. Australia invested around SB\$1.641 million (approx. AU\$ 310,000) through *PacificAus Sports* in 2023-24 and approximately SB\$5.416 million (AU\$ 1.02 million) in 2024-25.

Australia has partnered with Football Australia since 2019 under *PacificAus Sports*. The renewed partnership (AU\$3.5m non-ODA, 23/24 – 26/27) was launched in Solomon Islands in August 2024. The partnership increases opportunities for Pacific men's and women's national teams to train and compete with Australian teams - in Australia and the region. Recent activities include:

- the first-ever tour by an A-League team, Brisbane Roar, to Solomon Islands in October 2025 for the inaugural *PacificAus Sports Challenge*
- Four Nations Cup in Canberra (February 2025) featuring the Solomon Islands national women's team, as well as teams from Australia, Vanuatu and Thailand
- Australian U23 men's team tour to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (September 2024)
- Joeys U17 tour of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (August 2024)
- a professional shadowing program for SIFF staff in Australia to build capacity in matchday operations and tournament management
- five Solomon Islands players to join the Australian National Premier League and South Australia State League competition [bilateral support in late 2024: AU\$25,000]

**Team Up** (AU\$7.45 million ODA per year) operates in seven Pacific island countries (PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Nauru and Tonga). Team Up delivers initiatives in Solomon Islands focused on gender, disability and health across hockey, basketball, table tennis, surfing, athletics and football. Australia invested SB\$1.830 million (AUD 380,000) in Solomon Islands in 2023-24 and approximately SB\$4.540 million (AU\$ 850,000) in 2024-25.

'Just Play' is a sport for development program under Team Up. It is designed to communicate critical messages through the medium of football. About 7,700 Solomon Islander children (46 per cent girls) have participated in Just Play activities since 2023.

S33(a)(iii)

## COP31 TALKING POINTS

- Australia's motivation to bid for a Pacific COP31 has always been to elevate and amplify Pacific voices and interests, and support multilateralism.
- This deal ensures we have delivered on that aim.
- Engagement with Pacific partners has been central to our approach
  - PIF Foreign Ministers agreed a campaign plan – endorsed by PIF Leaders - which we have been advancing together.
  - we have come together at every step of the way – through PIF Leaders' and Foreign Ministers' Meetings, Climate Minister Talanoa and Pacific Senior Officials Taskforce – to align and advance our joint advocacy
    - including on the ground at COP30 in Belem.
- Irrespective of the outcome, our work together over more than three years to promote a Pacific COP has brought further global attention to the urgent and existential threat climate change is for our region
  - and to the skilled and long-standing climate leadership of the Pacific.
- Australia's commitment to ambitious climate action remains alongside our steadfast commitment to our Pacific partnerships.
- Together we will continue to champion our regional climate priorities to:
  - elevate the importance of a healthy ocean
  - emphasise the importance of keeping temperatures as close as possible to 1.5°C
  - make access to climate finance easier
  - focus attention on adaptation and loss and damage, and
  - embed traditional knowledge into climate solutions.

S47E(d)

S47E(d)

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## SOLOMON ISLANDS SNAPSHOT

**The bilateral relationship:** Australia remains Solomon Islands' partner of choice across development, economic and security sectors. We have active ministerial and parliamentary engagement. The RAMSI Mission was in place from 2003-17. Our Bilateral Security Treaty (signed in 2017) was activated for the first time in November 2021, following civil unrest in Honiara. At Solomon Islands' request, we extended our deployment to August 2024 to cover security support during the 2023 Pacific Games and 2024 Joint Elections. **S33(a)(iii)**

December 2024,

Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Manele announced an AUD190 million initiative to expand the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, **S47E(d)** Solomon Islands hosted the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in September 2025.

**Trade and investment statistics:** Australia-Solomon Islands two-way goods and services trade was AUD475.1 million in 2024 (Australia exports AUD176.2 million and imports AUD298.9 million). Australia's investment stock in Solomon Islands totalled at least AUD76 million in 2024. **S22(1)(a)(ii)**

**Aid program:** Solomon Islands is our third largest development program (after PNG and Indonesia). Our development program works across all nine provinces. We are the only development partner working across all five objectives of the Solomon Islands' National Development Strategy, including on the economy, health, education, governance and elections, infrastructure, access to justice, gender equality, and private sector development. Australia provides two-thirds of all Official Development Assistance to Solomon Islands [AUD170.9 million in 2025-26]. The Australia-Solomon Islands Development Partnership Plan was launched by Minister Conroy in Honiara in June 2025.

**Students and scholarships:** 100 Solomon Islanders were awarded Australia Awards Scholarships for study in Australia in 2024. 634 Solomon Islanders were awarded technical and vocational education and training scholarships for study in Solomon Islands in 2024.

### Major Visits:

**2025:** PM Manele and six ministers attended the Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum in Brisbane (November); **PM Albanese** visited Solomon Islands for the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (September); Minister of Infrastructure Development Fuo'o, Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification Manu'ari and three other ministers visits Australia for the Pacific Infrastructure Conference (August); **CDF Johnston** visited Solomon Islands (July); Minister for Rural Development Waneoroa visited Australia (June); **Minister Conroy** visited Honiara (June); then Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management Mahaga visited Australia (June); **DPM Marles** visited Honiara (January).

**2024:** Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services Tanangada and Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Rore visited Australia (November); Minister of Communication and Aviation Kologeto visited Australia (October); Minister of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening Ghemu, Minister of Health and Medical Services Bosawai, then Minister of Public Service Tuhaika, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development Wasi, then Minister of Lands, Housing and Survey Paea, Minister of Education and Human Resource Development Leokana and Minister of Home Affairs Vave visited Australia (September); **Minister Conroy** visited Honiara



(September); then Minister of Environment and Climate Change Mahaga visited Australia (August); DPM Tovosia visited Australia (July); **PM Manele** visited Australia (GoG Visit, June); **FM Wong** visited Honiara (June); **DPM Marles** visited Honiara (May); then Minister of National Planning and Development Coordination Ramofafia visited Australia (March); and then Security Minister Veke visited Australia (January).

**2023:** then **Governor-General Hurley** visited Honiara (November) for the Pacific Games; **Minister Conroy** visited Honiara (July); **DPM Marles** visited Honiara (June); then Solomon Islands DPM Maelanga visited Australia (April).

**2022:** then Solomon Islands **PM Sogavare** and then Security Minister Veke visited Canberra (October); **Minister Conroy** visited Honiara (August); **FM Wong** visited Honiara (June).

**Royal Solomon Islands Police Force – AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP):** RAPPP is a capacity-building program (2021–26) **S47E(d)**. It provides **S47E(d)** technical and enabling assistance to the RSIPF, aimed at jointly developing capability to future ready the RSIPF as a committed, capable, and appropriately resourced police force that delivers policing services across Solomon Islands. The program promotes interoperability to combat transnational crime across the Pacific.

**Defence cooperation:** Australia continues to support Solomon Islands through our 43-year Defence Cooperation Program (DCP). The DCP builds RSIPF capability across maritime security, explosive ordnance disposal, border surveillance, infrastructure, education, band engagement, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Major infrastructure projects include Aola Wharf, Western Border Outpost and Eastern Border Outpost.

**Regional/multilateral memberships:** UN, Commonwealth, Pacific Islands Forum, International Monetary Fund, Melanesian Spearhead Group, MDBs, World Trade Organization

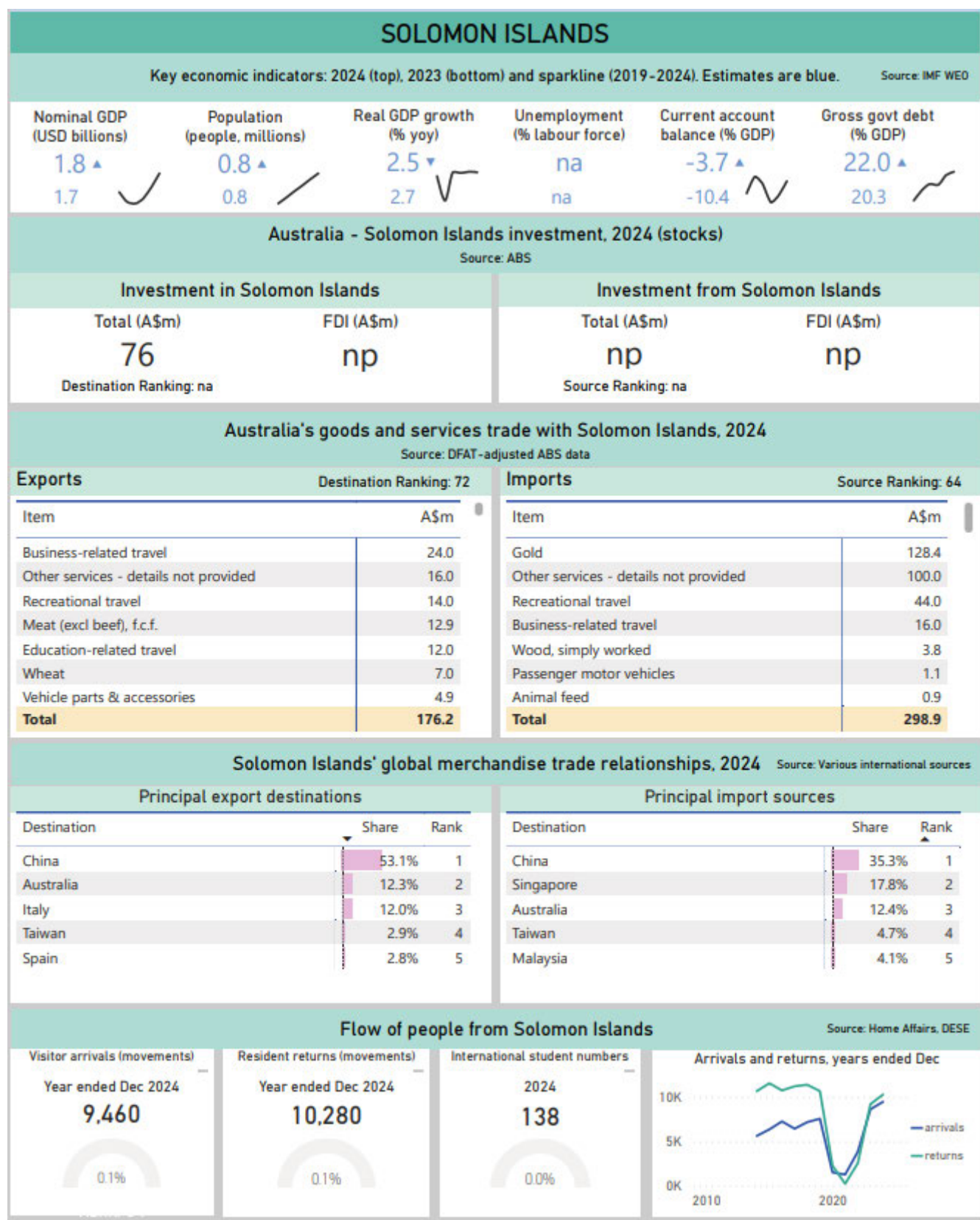
**Population:** 798,000 (2025)

**Community in Australia:** 2,863 (2021)

**Solomon Islands visitors to Australia:** 10,970 (2024)

**Australian Visitors to Solomon Islands:** 8,004 (2024)

# DFAT SOLOMON ISLANDS FACT SHEET



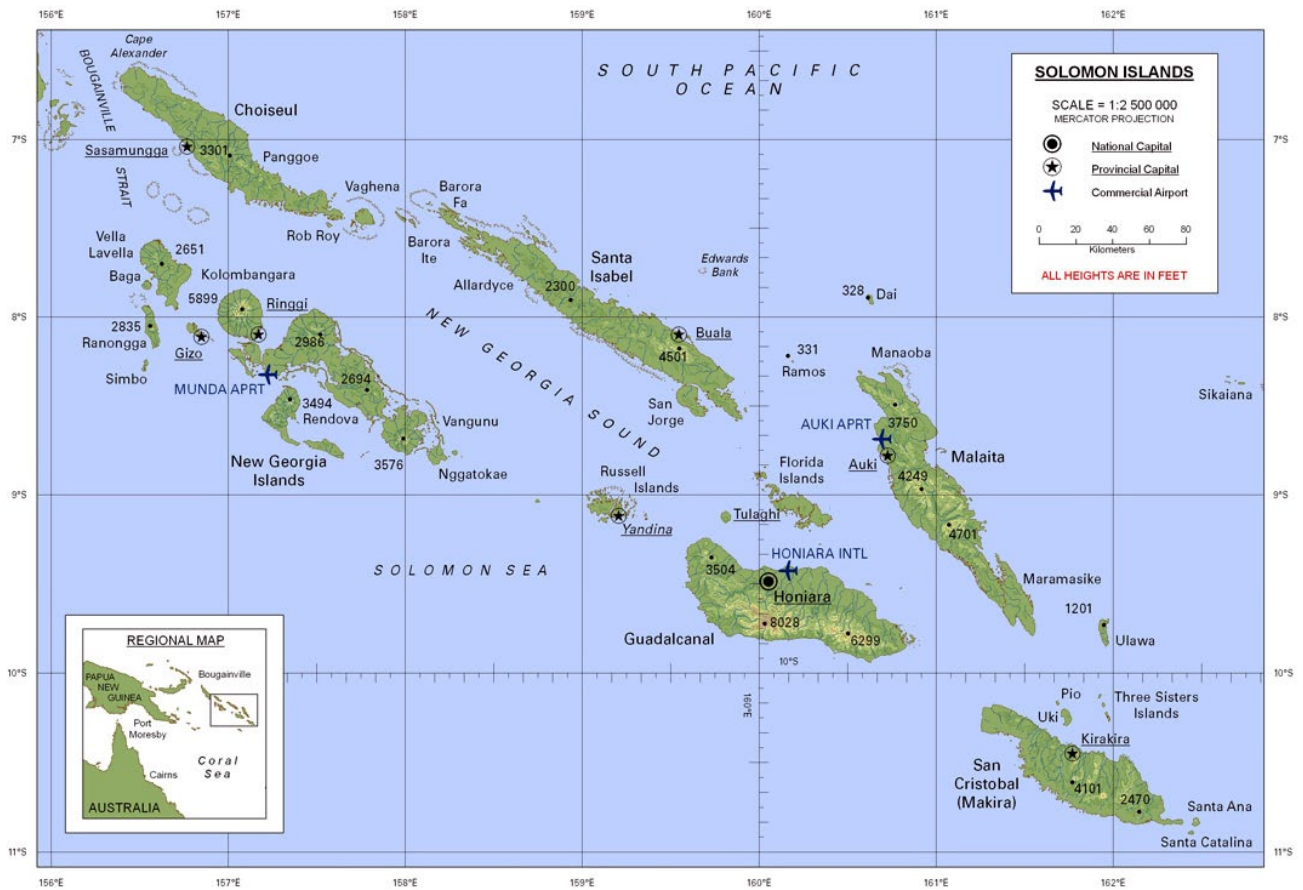
Compiled by the Trade Data Section, DFAT, using the latest data from the ABS, the IMF and various international sources.

IMF data may include forecasts or projections for recent years.


Merchandise trade data may exclude confidential items of trade. Totals may not add up due to rounding. Investment data is stocks as at end December. All data may be subject to future revisions.

GDP - Gross Domestic Product. na - Data is not available. np - Data is not published. f.c.f - Fresh, chilled or frozen. nes - Not elsewhere specified.

# COUNTRY MAP



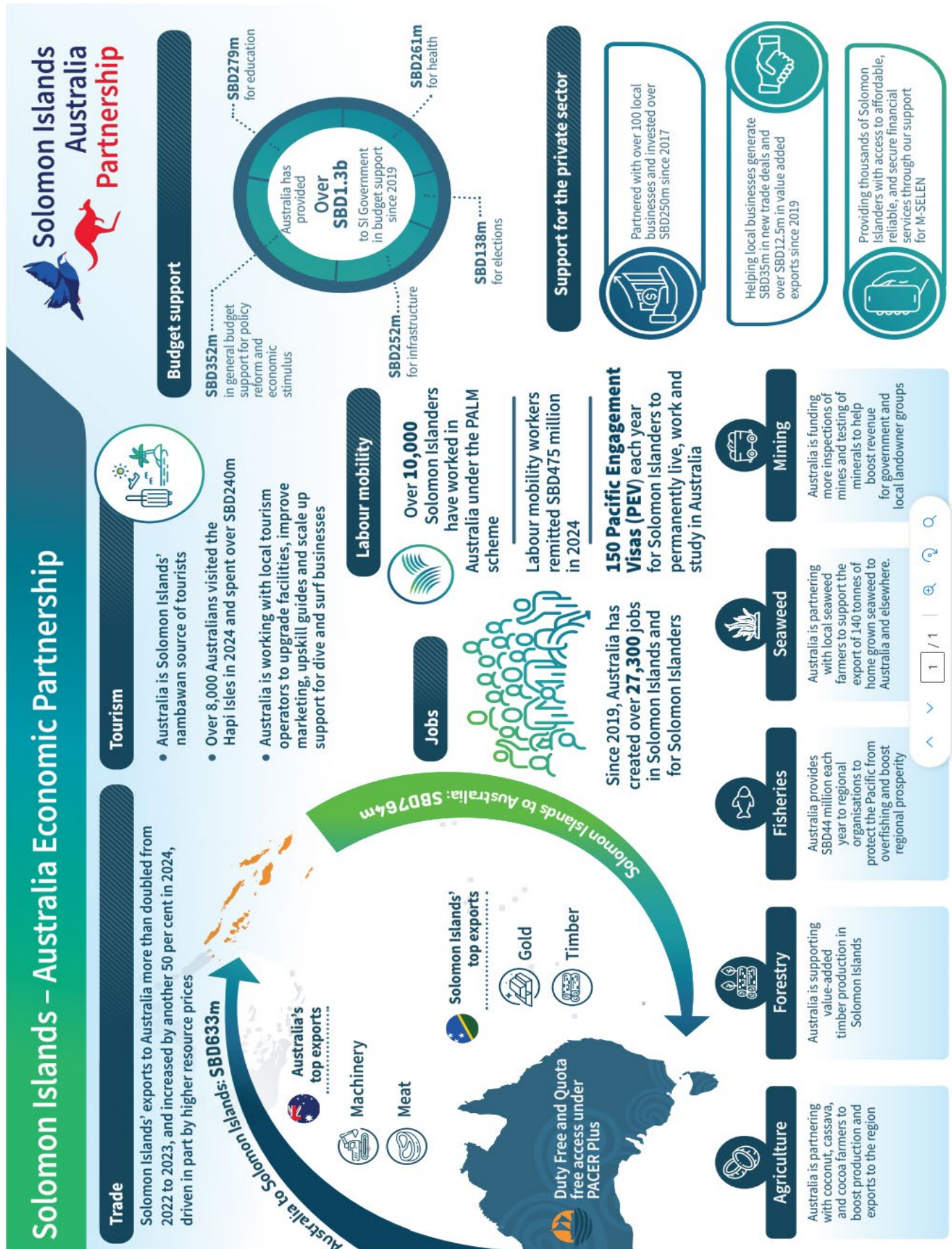
## GIFTS

Meeting / Event	Recipient's Full Name and Title	Photo	Gift Summary
<i>Bilateral Meeting Minister Shanel</i>	<i>The Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade</i>		<p><i>First Nations Artwork By Rebecca Beetson 28 x 23cm Framed painted Gum leaf</i></p> <p>Rebecca Beetson is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman, author, and artist whose family and ancestors were traditional custodians of lands in Dubbo and Moree, New South Wales. She grew up in Dubbo on the land of the Wiradjuri people. Rebecca has been painting for more than ten years and enjoys teaching people about her culture through boomerang throwing lessons, art classes, and Dreamtime storytelling. Gum leaves are significant in Indigenous Australian culture for their medical, spiritual and practical uses. The animals painted on the pieces are native to Australia (kookaburra).</p>

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# ECONOMIC PLACEMAT



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## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A1: BILATERAL MEETING BRIEF (SHANEL)

ATTACHMENT A2: BILATERAL MEETING CHEAT SHEET

ATTACHMENT B1: REMARKS FOR INFORMAL BBQ WITH SMALL GROUP OF MINISTERS

ATTACHMENT B2: BBQ CHEAT SHEET

ATTACHMENT C1: REMARKS FOR WOMEN OF INFLUENCE BREAKFAST

ATTACHMENT C2: BREAKFAST WOMEN OF INFLUENCE CHEAT SHEET

ATTACHMENT D: REMARKS FOR LAUNCH OF PACIFIC STRONG FUNDING

ATTACHMENT E: REMARKS FOR LAUNCH OF PACIFIC SKILLS

ATTACHMENT F1: REMARKS FOR TOURISM LUNCH

ATTACHMENT F2: CHEAT SHEET TOURISM LUNCH

ATTACHMENT G1: PACER PLUS MINISTER BIOGRAPHIES



## ATTACHMENT A1: BILATERAL MEETING BRIEF

### THE HON. PETER SHANEL AGOVAKA [SHAH-NELL] MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE

#### Talking points

- Pleased to be making my first visit to Honiara and good to see you again after the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting.
  - it was an honour to meet Prime Minister Manele and several of your ministerial colleagues in Brisbane last week.

#### *PACER Plus*

- Looking forward to tomorrow's meetings ahead of the important milestone of five years since PACER Plus entered into force
  - your chairing of meetings rounds out an important year of Solomon Islands leadership for the region.
- Have heard your advocacy, including recently to our mission in Geneva, on the importance of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit
  - pleased to advise you that I will be announcing an ongoing package of Australian support.
- PACER Plus brings **robust mechanisms for deeper economic integration** across the region
  - continuing 40 years of tariff-free access into Australia
  - and facilitating greater services trade in tourism, digital services, mobility and banking.
- Your speech on PACER Plus at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting was impactful to our fellow Forum Island members in encouraging greater interest in joining PACER Plus
  - there is renewed interest from Nauru and Republic of Marshall Islands
    - as well as interest from New Caledonia and French Polynesia
    - and we understand Fiji is keen but domestic political processes have come in the way
  - Australia supports growing PACER Plus membership
    - welcome your thoughts on growing PACER Plus Membership

#### *Bilateral Relationship*

- Proud Australia remains Solomon Islands' most significant economic partner when trade, development, investment and remittances are considered
  - great that Solomon Islands has passed the milestone of 10,000 PALM workers

- we recognise the relationship between economic development and security issues set out by Prime Minister Manele.
- During this visit I will be announcing two new initiatives for Solomon Islands
  - the continuation of our regional skills program **Pacific Australia Skills** with a strengthened focus on skills for employment; and
  - **Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls**, an important initiative timed with the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.
- Welcome opportunities to continue to build on the success of last week's Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum
  - interested to explore how we continue to strengthen private sector engagement, including to build and diversify economic growth in Solomon Islands
  - acknowledge the sectors Prime Minister Manele has identified, including tourism but also agriculture, forestry, mining and fisheries.
- S33(a)(iii)

### *Regional Issues*

- Congratulate your government on the successful delivery of **the 2025 PIF Leaders' Meeting** in September.
  - Australia is pleased to have provided logistics support and funding for your hosting and your Chair year, including an additional position at the UN in New York
  - elevating Pacific voices in regional and multilateral forums is crucial
    - also why Australia increased our support for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Geneva office.
- Interested to hear about Solomon Islands' priorities for the year as PIF Chair.
- Solomon Islands' announcement of a \$1 million contribution to the **Pacific Resilience Facility** signals the region's ownership of the facility
  - Australia's AU\$100 million contribution shows **our intent to co-invest** in Pacific-owned solutions that are self-sustaining
  - hope further global contributions can be an outcome of COP31.
- Thank Solomon Islands and particularly Prime Minister Manele for your extensive support as we put forward our joint bid with the Pacific.

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

## ATTACHMENT B1: REMARKS FOR BBQ WITH SMALL GROUP OF MINISTERS

- *Gudfala evening olketa! [good-fella evening ol-ket-ah]*
- It is fantastic to be here on my first visit to Solomon Islands – just in time before Rod departs
  - this is a country with whom Australia has such a long and deep partnership.
- I was fortunate to meet Prime Minister Manele and delegation, including Minister Douglas, last week at the Australia Solomon Islands Business Forum in Brisbane
  - and I’m pleased to see Minister Waneoroa who I met earlier this year [July] – and who I know is so passionate about the historic links between Queensland and Malaita province
- In May I was honoured to be appointed by Prime Minister Albanese as Australia’s first Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs
  - working closely with Minister Pat Conroy who I believe many of you know well
- My appointment reflects the importance this Australian Government places on the Pacific
  - our determination to deepen relationships and strengthen cooperation
  - and to demonstrate that we are a partner that Solomon Islands, and the region, can rely on.
- On a personal level, I have had a longstanding interest in the Pacific and Solomon Islands
  - as a Senator from Cairns, I am truly a neighbour to the Pacific
  - my office is geographically closer to Port Moresby than Brisbane, and closer to Honiara than Canberra – and don’t even mention the weather!
- From my six months in this role, I know there are already so many connections between our countries.
- The Australia Solomon Islands Business Forum in Brisbane last week showed the dynamism in our trade and investment relationship and the commitment on both sides to take it to the next level
  - our development partnership is longstanding – and I’ve been pleased to hear from Prime Minister Manele about the popular community projects we are delivering across the country
  - we have tremendous partnerships in infrastructure, health, education and skills
  - and this week I’ll discuss growing markets and reducing trade barriers through PACER Plus – because Australia is deeply committed to economic integration.
- One of the priorities I wanted to reflect on tonight is our people-to-people links

- more than 10,000 workers deploying to Australia under PALM is an incredible accomplishment – building core skills and returning an estimate \$450 million in remittances to their communities in 2024-2025.
  - and in the other direction, over 7,200 Australians visited Solomon Islands in 2024 – more than any other country
  - something I am particularly proud of given I am also Australia’s Assistant Minister for Tourism.
- More than numbers, these facts represent our partnership
  - to me, they are the embodiment of the Pacific family – with every visit an opportunity to learn from each other and improve our understanding
  - ‘tok stori’ as you say in Solomon Islands
- I witnessed the power of ‘tok stori’ in August when I attended Australia’s Garma Festival in remote northeast Arnhem Land
  - [as Minister Mahaga knows very well from his visit last year,] Garma is Australia's largest Indigenous gathering, a 4-day celebration of Yolngu life
  - but more importantly, it is a chance to listen and learn across cultures.
- As Assistant Minister for Pacific Islands Affairs, Tourism and Northern Australia, I view Garma as a powerful example of how we can grow the exchanges between our countries
  - through deep listening and learning
  - not just in government and business, but through our communities and the rich connections in culture, sport and religion.
- I understand – and am very pleased to hear – that many of you have already visited Australia in this term of Parliament
  - I hope you will return soon – particularly to Queensland!
- I look forward to sharing this evening with you
  - And learning more about your home provinces and where you see we can deepen bilateral ties.
- While this is my first visit to Honiara, I’m sure we will have many encounters ahead.
- Thank you tumas [*too—mus*]!

## ATTACHMENT C1: WOMEN OF INFLUENCE BREAKFAST REMARKS

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Gudfala mone [*Good-fella more-nay*] lo yufala everiwan [*low you-fella every-wan*].

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the presence of:

- the Honourable Francis Sade, Minister of Public Service
- the Honourable Cathy Nori, Minister for Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs
- Permanent Secretaries
- Women public service leaders featured in the Women of Influence Series
- Institute of Public Administration and Management Director, staff, mentors and mentees of the IPAM mentoring program
- Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Australian Government, it is a privilege to meet with you today.

### **I am proud to be launching the second series of profiles of Women of Influence in the Public Service**

I was inspired to hear the stories of the impressive women who are part of this series

These profiles highlight the significant contribution of women leaders in the Solomon Islands Public Service.

The women profiled today work across a broad range of fields—from fisheries and resource management, law enforcement and corrections, to labour mobility programs and roles within the Prime Minister's Office.

Hearing their stories, I was struck by the resilience and determination of each of them in pursuing career and leadership goals while also balancing family and community responsibilities

Their actions demonstrate a deep commitment to public service, to their communities, and to serving the people of Solomon Islands.

These women demonstrate that leadership comes in many forms - they represent the very best of this country.

By bringing their stories to the forefront, I hope we can inspire other future women leaders to consider a career in public service and the possibilities it can hold personally and professionally.

I was delighted to see that a number of today's women leaders had a connection to Australia throughout their careers.

Whether through study, exchanges or working on programs such as the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme which bring our countries together.

The strength and capability of the public service provides the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous Solomon Islands.

When the public service is equipped and empowered, policies come to life, resources are used wisely and communities flourish...

...The women leaders we celebrate today are central to achieving this.

Australia is proud of our partnerships that support a strong and resilient Solomon Islands public sector.

Through the Australian Institute of Management we have supported 88 Solomon Islands officials to complete MBA short courses.

And we continue to develop meaningful relationships between Solomon Islands and Australian Government institutions, that support both our countries.



And like Solomon Islands, the Australian Government is committed to advancing women's leadership and recognises that it takes work and dedication to make it happen.

We've set clear targets for leadership representation...

... and I'm proud to report we have, in recent years, achieved gender parity in the most senior public service positions and in government board positions.

While my government is the first majority woman Federal Government, with women making up 52 per cent of the Labour Caucus and the first ever gender equal Federal Cabinet.

Importantly, we're ensuring diversity within leadership—supporting First Nations women, women with disability, and culturally diverse women to thrive

These actions reflect our belief that gender equality strengthens decision-making and delivers better outcomes for all Australians.

Today's event falls within the 16 Days of Activism campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls—an important global initiative being coordinated in Solomon Islands by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.

Australia is working hand-in-hand with Solomon Islands to tackle gender-based violence, and advance women's rights and economic empowerment across all sectors...

...Priorities which I know are close to the hearts of so many Solomon Islander leaders here today.

One of the most powerful things we can do as leaders is to use our positions as an opportunity to inspire others.

As the saying goes, young girls can't be what they can't see.

The Women of Influence profiled today are doing just that—modelling how women can succeed as effective, resilient and thoughtful leaders in a diverse range of careers.

I'm sure they will inspire the young women of Solomon Islands to be this country's future leaders.

In this context, it is my pleasure to confirm that Australia will support a second phase of the Institute of Public Administration and Management's (IPAM) mentoring program.

We just heard from the Director of the IPAM [Solomon Manea] about the success of IPAM's pilot mentoring program.

Australia's support will enable this initiative to expand its footprint and continue to provide formal opportunities for women in the public service...

...To develop skills and build their careers under the guidance of experienced mentors - like some of the Women of Influence here today.

Congratulations once again to the five women profiled today, and to the mentors and mentees of the IPAM program - it has been an honour to hear your stories.

I look forward to continuing the discussion over breakfast, and hearing more from the next generation of women leaders as they develop their careers and shape the future of Solomon Islands.

## OFFICIAL

## ATTACHMENT D: LAUNCH OF PACIFIC STRONG: AMPLIFYING ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (PAVE) REMARKS

***Acknowledgements***

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge:

- the Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Cathy Nori
- representatives of government agencies
- representatives of women's organisations and conveners from the National Council of Women, Women's Rights Action Movement, and youth groups and community groups
- I would like to particularly acknowledge:
  - Lorio Sisiolo and Florence Taro from Christian Care Centre and Family Support Centre
    - representing two of Australia's partners supporting gender equality in Solomon Islands
    - I look forward to hearing your reflections today
- And to all guests, ladies and gentlemen

***Opening***

It is my pleasure to join you today for this event to reflect on the partnership between Australia and Solomon Islands, and our shared commitment to tackling violence against women and girls.

I am inspired to meet so many strong leaders working tirelessly for women's empowerment and safety as we gather to mark the occasion of Solomon Islands' 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence.

***Why This Matters***

For the Australian Government, gender equality is not a niche or special interest issue.

It is foundational to the strength, resilience and stability of our nation.

We know that when women and girls enjoy equality of opportunity, this brings great benefit for all:

## OFFICIAL

- reducing poverty
- strengthening social cohesion
- unlocking economic productivity and
- enhancing prosperity for current and future generations.

So when gender equality is lacking, we all pay the price.

Gender-based violence is perhaps the worst symptom of gender inequality.

This is a global challenge - across the world, women continue to face high levels of sexual and gender-based violence

One in three women globally, and a shocking two in three women in our region in the Pacific, have been subject to sexual and or gender based violence.

Here in Solomon Islands, 64% of women experience gender-based violence in their lifetime.

This has deep and lasting impacts on individual women and their children and it is a barrier to economic growth, social stability, and national security.

Lost earnings from women costs Solomon Islands.

You are not alone – this is a challenge that Australia is also grappling with.

A quarter of Australian women experience gender-based violence in their lives.

### ***Gender Equality Strategy***

At times this challenge can seem daunting, but we are not passive in its face.

Ending sexual and gender-based violence is the first priority of Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy - announced earlier this year by Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

We are delivering on this strategy by:

## OFFICIAL

- increasing investment in prevention and response services across the Indo-Pacific
- supporting women's health, rights, safety, economic participation, and leadership.
- helping women impacted by humanitarian crises, climate change and sexual and gender-based violence and
- ensuring that these initiatives reflect the perspectives and priorities of women and girls from across our region.

***Partnership with Solomon Islands***

I know Solomon Islands and Australia share a vision in which all of our people reach their full potential.

We also know that gender equality is a pathway to stronger communities and sustainable growth.

That is why Australia has committed 46 million SBD [AUD 8.75 million] over the next three years through our Gender Equality Partnership.

Our support focuses on bolstering women's leadership, women's economic empowerment and ending gender-based violence.

We are honoured to be working with partners, like many of you here today, on initiatives to strengthen services and prevent violence before it occurs.

Through our partnership with the Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs we will continue to support policy implementation...

...Including improving justice responses and survivor support.

And we continue our support for Safenet referral partners [who provide safe houses and related services for women] to:

- promote gender equality
- prevent violence against women and girls, and
- increase access to quality response services for survivors.

***Announcement***

## OFFICIAL

But we know there is still more to do.

Through the Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls program, since 2016 Australia has invested over SBD 58 million (AUD 11 million)...

...working in partnership with the Christian Care Centre (CCC) and Family Support Centre (FSC).

Through this partnership, CCC and FSC have supported thousands of women and children with counselling, shelter and ultimately, hope, for over 30 years.

We have listened to our partners and stakeholders, on what they need most.

Today it is my great honour to announce a new initiative in Solomon Islands called **Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PAVE)**.

This is a new five-year initiative across nine Pacific countries.

For Solomon Islands, it will mean an additional SBD 13 million [AUD \$2.5 million].

The funding will go to FSC and CCC and will strengthen frontline crisis services for women and girls and expand outreach.

Importantly, this new program builds on what we already know works, with existing partners committed to driving change.

## Closing

Momentum for progress on issues of gender equality and tackling sexual and gender based violence may not always be clear or linear.

Sometimes, it may even feel like progress is stalling or going backwards.

But incremental steps, by drivers of change like so many of you here today, over time do build to powerful measure of success.

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Australia stands with you.

Thank you for welcoming me here today.

I am delighted to have met you all, and to have heard your stories of commitment and dedication.

Together, we can tackle violence against women and girls.

Together, we can advance gender equality for a safer, stronger, and more prosperous Solomon Islands.

## OFFICIAL

## ATTACHMENT E: LAUNCH OF PACIFIC AUSTRALIA SKILLS PROGRAM IN SOLOMON ISLANDS REMARKS

***Acknowledgements***

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge:

- o The Honourable Tozen Leokana [*Toe-zen Leo-khan-ah*], Minister for Education and Human Resource Development
- o Permanent Secretary Dr Franco Rodie [*Frank-oh Row-dee*]
- o Permanent Secretary Dr Cedric Alependava [*Alleh-pen-dah-vah*]
- o Training partner representatives
- o distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

***Opening***

I am delighted to be here today to formally launch Pacific Australia Skills in Solomon Islands.

This is Australia's new, Pacific-wide skills program.

It continues our longstanding commitment to supporting skills, training, and jobs for the people of the Pacific.

Today's launch is about investing in people, in opportunity, and in the future of this nation, through its youth.

This morning, I had the privilege of meeting some of the first students who will benefit from Pacific Australia Skills' training.

Their enthusiasm and dedication to learn new skills is inspiring and it's a reminder that this program provides more than qualifications—it builds confidence, and creates pathways to new opportunities.

Australia is proud of its longstanding support for Solomon Islands' skills system.



## OFFICIAL

For nearly two decades, through the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), we have worked with government, training organisations, and communities to expand access to training...

...helping thousands of people gain the skills they need for employment.

With the support of APTC, more than 8,600 Solomon Islanders have gained full qualifications, short courses or micro credentials.

These achievements reflect the hard work and commitment of those Solomon Islanders and show what is possible when we work together in partnership.

Here in Solomon Islands, the importance of skills and training is clear.

With more than 80 per cent of the population under the age of 35, young people are this nation's most valuable national asset - and they are ready to contribute, innovate, and lead.

Pacific Australia Skills will build on the successes of APTC.

It will work closely with Solomon Islands' institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority, training providers, employers, and communities...

...to ensure training leads to real skills, real jobs, and clear pathways for young people and workers.

Pacific Australia Skills will focus on areas of demand such as construction, hospitality, agriculture, and emerging green industries, while.

- promoting climate resilience
- inclusion for women and girls, people with disabilities, and those in rural communities, and
- supporting pathways that enable people of all backgrounds to contribute to their families, to their communities, and to this nation's future.

## OFFICIAL

Pacific Australia Skills will also complement the PALM scheme by supporting workers with industry-specific training to help them be job ready before deployment...

... and to help create opportunities for those returning home to apply their skills in Solomon Islands

With over 10,000 Solomon Islanders having now gained experience working in Australia, there is a growing pool of talent ready to drive growth at home in Solomon Islands.

I also want to emphasise that the program will continue to reflect the priorities and vision of the Solomon Islands Government.

This is your skills system, your workforce, and your future.

Australia is committed to supporting your leadership every step of the way.

Pacific Australia Skills is one element of Australia's broader support to inclusive economic growth in Solomon Islands.

We are providing support to local businesses via Strongim Bisnis [*strong-im bizz-niss*].

We are investing in renewable energy, telecommunications and transport infrastructure to improve the business enabling environment.

And we provide excellent trade and market access for Solomon Islands' exports.

Opportunities like the PALM scheme and the Pacific Engagement Visa enhance our people-to-people ties...

...and help to deliver the future builders, trainers, carers, electricians, hospitality workers, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals who will guide Solomon Islands in the years ahead.

## OFFICIAL

Together, we are working towards a Solomon Islands that is a better skilled, connected, resilient, and prosperous member of the Pacific family.

Australia stands with you on this journey.

## OFFICIAL

## ATTACHMENT F1: LUNCH WITH LOCAL TOURISM OPERATOR REMARKS

***Acknowledgements***

- Hon. Choylin Douglas, Minister of Culture and Tourism
- Permanent Secretary Barney Sivoro
- Local tourism operators from across Solomon Islands
  - wonderful to see some of you again after the recent World Indigenous Business Forum in Melbourne (S22(1)(a)(ii))

Thank you to Grace for the welcome to the site of your cocoa farm and for the opportunity to experience making cocoa powder!

And to Hilda for demonstrating the skill and care in making beautiful shell money from Malaita.

I was delighted to join last week's Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum in Brisbane where the depth and strength of our economic partnership was clear.

Australia continues to be Solomon Islands' number one economic partner - including supporting the growing tourism industry in Solomon Islands.

We stand side by side with government and the private sector, supporting skills, jobs, economic growth, and infrastructure to grow tourism for Solomon Islands.

Through initiatives like tourism and hospitality training courses, new tar sealed (all weather) runways for Seghe and Taro airports, and the new Adamasia Cable.

We are supporting skills training, reliable travel, and connectivity to create an environment ready for tourism sector investment and opportunity.

This is my first visit to Solomon Islands and already I can see why so many Australian tourists come here

## OFFICIAL

This is a stunning country.

Australians can't get enough of your beautiful beaches, coral reefs and unique culture - and we want to see more Australian visitors in the years to come.

As local tourism operators, you represent the best of Solomon Islands' tourism sector across guesthouses, guided tours, and emerging and growing areas of dive and surf tourism and agribusiness.

It shows the richness of the country's growing tourism industry.

In partnership with the Solomon Islands Government, Australia—through our private sector program Strongim Bisnis—is investing more in the tourism industry to upgrade facilities and improve services to attract greater numbers of tourists.

This means more local tour guides and staff employed at lodges across Solomon Islands...

...and more spending in your local communities that goes into pockets of households and community members and ultimately stronger and more inclusive economic growth for all of Solomon Islands.



Key to this partnership are the rich people to people links and knowledge sharing among our tourism businesses in Solomon Islands and Australia.

I saw this firsthand at the World Indigenous Business Forum in Melbourne - bringing people and businesses together and boosting growing the sector.

I look forward to learning more about your businesses and your plans on encouraging more Australian tourists to the Hapi Isles.

## ATTACHMENT D: PACER PLUS BIOGRAPHIES INFORMAL AIRPORT NETWORKING

**Cook Islands**

Tingika ELIKANA (EL-E-CAH-NAH)			
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration			
COOK ISLANDS			
	Form of Address:	Honourable Minister	
	S33(a)(iii)	S33(	
	Year of Birth:	1961	
	Education:	Bachelor of Laws, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ; Diploma in Public Sector Management, Massey University, NZ; Master of Business Administration, University of the South Pacific, Fiji	
Career:			
2024 +	Minister of the Crown (responsible for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Marine Resources, and Parliamentary Services)		
2019-2024	Associate Minister for Finance and Economic Management and Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration		
2012-2018	Secretary of Justice		
2009-2011	Solicitor – General		
Early Career	Deputy Solicitor-General, Crown Counsel, Police Officer.		
S33(a) (iii), S47E(d)  .     .  .  .  .  .  			

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)  
)

**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Australia's relationship with the Cook Islands continues to grow under the commitments of the *'Oa Tumanava [O-ar Too-ma-nah-va] Partnership*
  - deeply value our close friendship which enhances regional co-operation and guides our efforts to uphold Pacific unity.
- Our support for the Cook Islands reflects our commitment to navigating shared challenges
- progress priorities for economic prosperity (through PACER Plus and Pacific Private Sector Development Initiatives), climate resilience (support for disaster preparedness) and people-to-people links (community grants for Cook Islanders).
- Interested to hear about Cook Islands' development priorities in the context of PACER Plus
  - how can the PACER Plus Implementation Unit better support the Cook Islands achieve these goals?

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

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**Kiribati**

Tukabu TAUATI (TU-KA-BU TAU-AHS)

High Commissioner to Fiji

KIRIBATI (KI-RI-BUS)



Form of Address: High Commissioner

S33(a)(iii) S33(

Year of Birth: Unknown

Education: Unknown

**Career:**

2025 – Present Kiribati High Commissioner to Fiji

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Condolences for the passing of First Lady Madam Teiraeng
- the late First Lady leaves a legacy of committed service and dedication to the people of Kiribati
- please convey my deepest sympathies to President Maamau.
- Australia is proud to be Kiribati's largest development partner [\$39.5 million, 2025-26]
- our support touches every sector and every island
- including health, education, climate, infrastructure, labour mobility and aviation.

## Nauru

Hon. Lionel AINGIMEA MP (*an-gah-mee-yah*)

Minister Assisting the President, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Nauru Police Force, Justice &amp; Border Control, Nauru Port Authority, Nauru Shipping Line



Republic of NAURU (NAU-RU)

Form of  
Address:

Your Excellency

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

Year of Birth:

1965

Education:

Bachelor of Laws, University of the South Pacific,  
Vanuatu (Australian Awards Scholarship 1999);  
Geelong College, Victoria**Career:**

2023 – present	Minister Assisting the President, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Nauru Police Force, Justice & Border Control, Nauru Port Authority
2019 – 2022	President of the Republic of Nauru  Minister for Public Service, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Nauru Police Force National Emergency Services, Telecommunications and Media, Multicultural Affairs, Education, Land Management, Nauru Air Corporation, Port Authority of Nauru, Eigigu Solutions Corporations, Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust, Nauru Postal Services Corporations, Nauru Tourism Corporation, Cenpac Corporation, Nauru RPC Corporation, Nauru Sports Development
2016 – 2019	Assistant Minister for Public Service, Justice & Border Control and Multicultural Affairs and Nauru Post
2016 – present	Member of Parliament
2013 – 2016	Secretary for Department of Justice and Border Control
2009 – 2013	Human Rights Advisor, Secretary for the Pacific Community, Fiji
2007 – 2009	Fellow, Institute for Justice and Legal Studies, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
2005 – 2007	Chief Public Defender, Marshall Islands
2003 – 2005	Secretary for Justice, Nauru

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)

#### Key messages for pull-asides:

- Understand improving Nauru's economic diversity and economic resilience is one of the core priorities of President Adeang's Government – Australia understands how important this goal is to Nauru.
  - The Nauru-Australia Treaty has elevated our long-standing relationship with Nauru to an integrated economic, social and security partnership – central to the Treaty is supporting Nauru's economic resilience.
- Australia is committed to economic prosperity and resilience for the whole Pacific islands region. This was a strongly shared sentiment at this year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.
  - Noting the comparative smallness of Pacific economies, closer integration is a key way we can obtain economies of scale and become resilient to external shocks – PACER Plus helps this.
- PACER Plus provides key benefits for trade and commerce by integrating regional supply chains and connecting trade-enabling infrastructure.
- S33(a)(iii)
- The decision to accede to PACER Plus is a sovereign decision for Nauru
  - S33(a)(iii)

## New Zealand

**Hon Scott SIMPSON**

Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Minister for the Accident Compensation Corporation

**NEW ZEALAND****Form of Address:** Minister**S33(a)(iii)** **S33(a)****Year of Birth:** 1959**Education:** Bachelor of Law, University of Auckland**Career:**

2024 – Present	Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Minister for the Accident Compensation Corporation
2023 – 2025	
2017	Chief Government Whip
2011 – 2020	Previous position Minister for Statistics, Associate Minister for Immigration and Environment
	Elected to Parliament as the MP for Coramandel

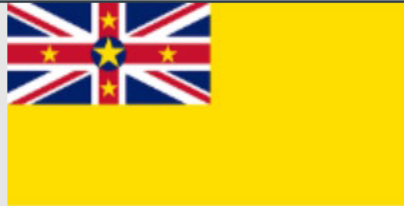
S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

**Key messages for potential pull-aside:**

- Pleasure to see you again so soon after our meeting in Canberra [28 October].

- Reaffirm the trans-Tasman relationship is more important than ever as we **respond to rising geostrategic tensions, uphold regional security and deliver on shared Pacific priorities**
  - S33(a)(iii)  
committed to working in lockstep to advance our shared interests.
- Appreciate the close coordination between our PACER Plus teams on priorities and handling strategies in advance of this Ministerial Meeting.
- See this Ministerial Meeting as an opportunity for us to build momentum on regional economic integration and encourage new membership
  - S33(a)(iii)
- Value our joint efforts in encouraging a Fiji announcement on accession
  - S33(a)(iii)
- Pleased to hear the **CPTPP Trade Ministers' Meeting** in Melbourne last week [20-21 November] went well
  - S33(a)(iii)
  - S33(a)(iii)
- S47E(d)

**The Hon Crossley Tatui (TAH-TOO-EE)**  
Minister for Finance and Infrastructure  
**NIUE**



Education:	Public Administration, Management and Accounting, University of the South Pacific
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— — — — —

- Appreciate your support for the inaugural Niue-Australia Friendship Day [8 November 2025], whilst you were acting Prime Minister

- understand activities included sporting matches, cultural events and a visit from Australian Defence Vessel ‘Reliant’ which delivered generators gifted by Australia to Niue
- Friendship Day marks five years since the opening of the Australian High Commission in Alofi.
- Australia is proud to support Niuean priorities on water and sanitation, climate resilient infrastructure and economic sustainability [*\$1.8 million in 2025-26*]
  - and our ongoing support for the Niue International Trust Fund, which we provided a \$600,000 contribution to in 2025.
- A PACER Plus scoping study [*completed in January 2024*] supported Niue integrate its customs and postal systems
  - addressed coordination gaps between the two systems, resulting in improved efficiency in the processing and clearance of international shipments - enabling the launch of a new e-Commerce project [*12 November*].
- Interested to hear about Niue’s development priorities in the context of PACER Plus
  - how can the PACER Plus Implementation Unit better support Niue achieve these goals?

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

## Samoa

**Hon. Fata Ryan SCHUSTER (SHOO-STER)**

Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour

Samoa

**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)**Year of Birth**

Unknown

**Education:**

Unknown

**Career:**

August 2025: Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii)

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)



## Solomon Islands

**Peter SHANEL (Sha-Nell) AGOVAKA**

Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade

**SOLOMON ISLANDS****Form of** Minister**Address:** S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

1959

**Year of Birth:**

Telekom College, Papua New Guinea

**Education:**

North Sydney Institute of Engineering

**Career:**

May 2024	Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2015-2024	Minister of Communication and Aviation
2014-2015	Minister of Police, National Security and Correction Services
2010-2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2006-2007	Minister of Commerce, Industries and Employment
2006	Elected as Member for Central Guadalcanal
Before 2006	Liaison Officer, Gold Ridge Mining Limited

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

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S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)

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S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

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## Tonga

**Hon. Kapelieli Lanumata** [KAH-PEH-LEE-EH-LEE // LAH-NOO-MAH-TAH]

Minister for Trade and Economic Development



## TONGA

	<p><b>Form of Address:</b> Minister</p> <p><b>Address:</b> S33(a) S33(a)(iii) 1979</p> <p><b>Year of Birth:</b> 1979</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Master of Management and Rural Development, China Agricultural Uni. (2019-2021)</p>
<p><b>Career:</b></p>	<p>2023- Peoples' Representative for Tongatapu 10</p> <p>2015-2019 Personal Assistant to the Minister for Trade and Economic Development</p> <p>-2015 Accounts, Royal Tonga Airlines/Tongan import-export companies</p>
<p>S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p> </p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p> </p>	
<p>S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)</p>	
<p><b>Key messages for pull-asides:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia recognises that inclusive economic development is a top priority for the Government of Tonga and is essential for long term prosperity and stability.</li> </ul>	

- That's why Australia is investing in Tonga's key economic drivers and enablers, such as tourism, agriculture, skills, energy, aviation and infrastructure, across all islands
  - and why Australia is proud to be Tonga's largest development partner
- providing AUD69.7 million in ODA in 2025-25 [*up from AUD50 million in 2024-25*]
  - along with AUD85 million in budget support over 4 years [*2025-29; Australia has provided a total of AUD142 million in budget support since 2020*].
- Interested to hear Tonga's priorities under a new government [*elections were held on 20 November*].
- Pleased the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) and ADB's Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), funded by Australia, are working with you to improve Tonga's private sector enabling environment, governance and leadership
  - through PSDI, pleased we could support your recent national policy on consumer protection and competition
  - through PPIU, we supported MTED to develop the Tonga Standardisation Roadmap in collaboration with Standards Australia, to facilitate innovation and economic growth.

S47E(d)

S47E(d)

## Tuvalu

**The Hon. Paulson PANAPA**

*[Tuvaluan Ministers are generally referred to by their first name]*

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade

**TUVALU**



**Form of** Minister

**Address:** S33(a)  
S33(a)(iii)  
1967

**Year of Birth:** Australia Awards alumni –

**Education:** Masters of  
Governance, University of  
South Pacific

**Career:**

2024- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade

2017-2022 Tuvalu's High Commissioner to New Zealand

2014-2017 Tuvalu's High Commissioner to Fiji

~ 2011 Secretary for Education, Youth & Sports; Chairman of the USP Board

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Thank you for all you have personally done to build the strong and enduring relationship between our countries under the Falepili Union
- Great to meet recently with Sir Iakoba Italeli, Speaker of the Tuvaluan Parliament, and other visiting parliamentarians
  - had productive discussions on the Falepili mobility pathway and Tuvalu's climate adaptation needs.
- Pleased with the speed of delivery of our more than \$150 million of commitments under the Falepili Union
  - we have seen milestone achievements with the connection of the Vaka undersea cable, the completion of the southern extension of the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP), and the commencement of activities under the Te Ao economic governance program
- Glad to see over 100 visas have now been granted under the Falepili Mobility Pathway
  - settlement support services are in place to promote mobility with dignity
  - as PM Feleti says, this is a two-way pathway, and we look forward to the exchange of cultures, ideas and skills enriching both countries.
- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

## Vanuatu

**Joe Pakoa LUI [LOO-EE]**

Acting Director General of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and  
External Trade (MFAICET)**VANUATU****Form of** Director**Address:** S33(  
S33(a)(iii) ) (iii)  
Unknown**Year of Birth:** Bachelor of Economics, International Business and**Education:** Marketing (University of the South Pacific), 2010-2011

Soccer (Malapoa College)

**Career:**

2025 – Present	Acting Director General of Foreign Affairs, MFAICET
2023 – 2025	Commissioner General for the Osaka World Expo 2025
2020 – 2025	Director of External Trade, MFAICET
2018 – 2020	First Secretary (Trade & Investment), Vanuatu, High Commission, Suva, Fiji
2014 – 2018	Senior Trade Officer, MFAICET

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Australia and Vanuatu share a deep and enduring partnership, founded on a shared vision of a prosperous and peaceful region.



- Australia is deeply honoured to be Vanuatu's largest economic, development, security and humanitarian partner [estimated AUD123 million/Vt. 9.8 billion in ODA to Vanuatu in 2024-25].
- We are committed to enhancing our bilateral relationship through the Nakamal Agreement.
- Acknowledge Vanuatu's economic challenges [declining revenue, rising debt, recent disasters]
- Australia is committed to supporting Vanuatu's economic security including through strengthening our trade, tourism, agricultural, skills, labour mobility and business links.
- Interested to hear about your economic priorities including potential opportunities for further collaboration, such as through Nakamal.

S47E(d)

## PACER Plus Implementation Unit

Mr Roy LAGOLAGO (LAHNO-LAHNO)

Head of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit



Form of Address: Roy

S33(a)(iii) S33(

Year of Birth: Unknown

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Sociology and a Master of Public Management from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

S33a(iii),  
S47E(d)

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## **Solomon Islands, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Minister SHANEL [SHAH-NELL]**

- Pleased to be making first visit to Honiara to attend PACER Plus
- PACER Plus continues 40 years of tariff-free access to Australia
  - heard your advocacy on importance of Implementation Unit and will be announcing our ongoing funding
  - Australia supports growing PACER Plus membership.
- Proud Australia is Solomon Islands' most significant economic and development partner, including through PALM, and recognise links between economic development and security
  - will be announcing new skills and gender funding.
- Good to discuss bilateral trade and investment opportunities last week with PM Manele at the Business Forum including in tourism.
- S33a(iii)
- Congratulations on hosting PIF Leaders' Meeting: interested in your forward priorities as PIF Chair.
- Welcome SIG contribution of \$1 million to the PRF; Australia investing AUD100 million
  - hope further global contributions can be an outcome of our COP31 negotiated approach.
- Thank Solomon Islands and PM Manele for extensive contributions on COP31.

## **Solomon Islands Bilateral Meeting Program**

**10:05:** Depart Brisbane Qantas Airlines  
**14:15:** Arrive Honiara, Solomon Islands  
**14:30:** Transfer to Australian High Commission  
**15:00:** Briefing from High Commissioner and senior executive  
**15:55:** Transfer to bilateral meeting  
**16:00:** Meeting with Minister Shanel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade  
**16:30:** Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel  
**18:00:** Transfer to HOMRES  
**18:10:** Pre-brief with High Commissioner  
**18:30:** Dinner: Informal BBQ with small group of Ministers  
**20:30:** Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel  
**20:45:** End of Official Engagements

### **Attendees- Solomon Islands**

Hon Peter Shanel Agovaka [Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade]

[Mr Colin Beck, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade]

[TBC – Post has asked MFAET]

### **Attendees - Australia - DFAT**

HE Rod Hilton, High Commissioner

S22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Advisor

Mr Andrew Schloeffel, Deputy High Commissioner

Mr Andrew Cumpston, AS Pacific Economic and Trade Branch

## EVENT – BBQ DINNER – SOLOMON ISLANDS MINISTERS

- **Fantastic to be on my first visit to Solomon Islands** [you have met Ministers Douglas and Waneoroa in Australia].
- **Pleased to be working closely on the Pacific** with Minister Conroy– as a Senator from Cairns **my office is closer to Honiara than Canberra.**
- Delighted to join last week's **Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum** including meeting Prime Minister Manele.
- Acknowledge the **strength of our development partnership;** including community projects providing local infrastructure.
- Welcome **people-to-people ties** – 10,000 workers deployed to Australia under PALM, and Australia as Solomon Islands' largest source of tourists [7,200 in 2024].
- First Nations connections and approaches, like those at **Garma**, teach us the value of Tok stori and deep listening
- Keen to explore **stronger people-to-people links**, building on our rich connections in culture, sport and religion.
- Interested to learn about your **home provinces**, and where we can **deepen the relationship between our countries.**

## **Solomon Islands BBQ HOM Residence Program**

18:00: Depart Heritage Park Hotel  
18:10: Arrive High Commissioner Residence  
18:10-18:30: Event pre-brief with High Commissioner  
18:30: Solomon Islands Ministers arrive  
18:30-18:58: Networking drinks with Ministers  
18:58: Welcome by H.E. High Commissioner Rod Hilton  
19:00: Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)  
19:05: Remarks by Minister Trevor Mahaga  
19:10: Dinner served (grace provided by Minister Cathy Nori)  
19:15-20:30: BBQ dinner  
20:30: Depart High Commissioner Residence

### **Attendees- Solomon Islands**

Hon Choylin Douglas [Culture and Tourism]  
Hon Ricky Fuo'o [Infrastructure Development]  
Hon Tozen Leokana [Education and Human Resources Development]  
Hon Trevor Mahaga [National Planning and Development Coordination]  
Hon Cathy Nori [Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs]  
Hon Francis Sade [Public Service]  
Hon John Tuhaika Jnr [Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs]  
Hon Daniel Waneoroa [Rural Development]

## **EVENT – WOMEN OF INFLUENCE BREAKFAST**

- Privilege to launch the second series of profiles of Women of Influence in the Public Service.
- Capability of the public service is the foundation of strong, prosperous countries
  - the five women leaders we celebrate today are central to achieving
- Pleasure to announce Australia's commitment to funding the second phase of the Institute of Public Administration and Management's mentoring program
  - will enable more women in public service to build their careers and skills under the guidance of experienced mentors.
- Australia has made own efforts at gender parity in leadership in public service and government
- During 16 Days of Activism campaign pleased we are also working together to tackle gender based violence
- Congratulations to all five women profiled today – it is an honour to meet you and hear your stories
  - sure you will inspire next generation of women leaders as they shape the future of Solomon Islands.

## **Solomon Islands Women of Influence Breakfast**

### **Program**

08:20: Arrive at GGs (indoor restaurant at HP)  
08:20: Welcome and Prayer (MC, Lynette Adomea)  
08:25: Opening remarks by Hon Francis Sade  
08:30: Panel discussion led by the MC  
09:00: Launch of Women of Influence series (group photo)  
09:05: Intro of mentoring program by IPAM Director  
09:10: Remarks by you (Assistant Minister Green)  
09:15: Closing remarks by Hon Cathy Nori  
09:20: Official event ends, breakfast buffet begins  
09:45: Depart GGs for PAVE launch

### **Attendees - Solomon Islands**

Hon Francis Sade [Public Service]  
Hon Cathy Nori [Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs]  
Solomon Manea [IPAM Director, Ministry of Public Service]

### **Attendees - Profiled Women of Influence**

S22(1)(a)(ii)

Florence Barimata Joel, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Needy Taingeia, Acting Assistant Commissioner of Corporate Services, Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services  
Patricia Leta, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Crime and Intelligence, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force  
Ronnelle Panda, Assistant Secretary Policy and Planning, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.



## **EVENT – TOURISM OPERATOR REMARKS**

- Acknowledge Minister Douglas, Perm Sec Sivor
- Pleased to see some familiar faces from the **World Indigenous Business Forum in Melbourne** [October], and to meet others for the first time.
- Delighted to join last week's Australia-Solomon Islands **Business Forum in Brisbane**, where the depth and strength of our partnership was clear.
- Australia continues to be Solomon Islands' **number one economic partner**, including supporting the growing tourism industry in Solomon Islands.
- Through initiatives like training courses, new all-weather runways, and the new Adamasia Cable, we are **supporting skills, reliable travel and connectivity**.
- Through **private sector program Strongim [strong-im] Bisnis [bis-nis]**, we are **investing in tourism**, to upgrade facilities and improve services to attract more tourists
  - which means more local tour guides and staff employed, more spending in your local communities and stronger and more inclusive growth.

## **Solomon Islands Lunch**

### **Program**

12:50: Arrival; Welcome from Ms Grace Fekau, Farm Owner  
12:53: You (Assistant Minister Green) guided to small hut  
12:55: Cocoa and shell money making demonstrations  
13:03: (Assistant Minister Green) guided to large hut  
13:05: Welcome remarks from MC [standing]  
13:08: Remarks from Minister of Culture & Tourism Douglas [standing]  
13:11: Remarks (Assistant Minister Green) [standing]  
13:14: Grace from Ms Hilda Sofaemana, Owner, Taflabana Guesthouse  
13:15: (Assistant Minister Green) invited to self-serve lunch buffet style, and then sit at two trestle tables [no assigned seating]  
13:50: (Assistant Minister Green) and guests take photo

### **Attendees - Solomon Islands**

Hon Choylin Douglas, Minister of Culture and Tourism  
Mr Bunyan Sivoro, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
Ms Grace Fekau, Owner, Amazing Grace  
Ms Hazel Bae, Owner Authentic Mala Tours  
Ms Hilda Sofaemaena, Owner, Taflabana Guesthouse  
Mr John and Ms Karen Foimua, Owners, Travel Solomon  
Mr Michael Salini, Owner, Star Point Accommodation (former Central Province Premier)  
Mr Lauri Leketo, Kagata Surf Camp



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# BRIEF FOR ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

## PACER PLUS MINISTERS MEETING

Honiara, 27 November

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## VISIT OVERVIEW

### Strategic purpose of the visit

- The 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting (PPMM) is an opportunity to build on Australia's reputation as a reliable and predictable economic partner to the region, while announcing the renewal of a major support package for PACER Plus (2025-2030). This follows your earlier in-principle commitment at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) in July 2025.

### Key outcomes the Assistant Minister is seeking to achieve this purpose

- S33(a)(iii)
- Highlight Australia's commitment to the region's trade ambitions by announcing, alongside New Zealand, Australia's support of a second PACER Plus support package (2025-2030) and reminding senior interlocutors that for 40 years Australia has offered the Pacific tariff-free access to Australian markets and development assistance targeting export market growth.
- Advance bilateral economic and development priorities through engagements with Solomon Island ministers and activities related to skills, gender and private sector growth. This will build on your [Assistant Minister Green's] attendance at the 14<sup>th</sup> Australia-Solomon Islands Business Forum (19 November).

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

-

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

# VISIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PACER Plus

At the PACER Plus Ministers Meeting (PPMM), you will announce Australia's renewed support package of \$23.2 million for the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Programme and the PACER Plus implementation Unit (PPIU) for 2025-2030. New Zealand will announce NZD \$10 million for PACER Plus.

This is an increase on previous support (2020-2025) responding to calls from Ministers at the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting to sustainably resource labour mobility under PACER Plus.

There will be a signing ceremony between Ministers on the five-year extension of the PPIU and the DEC Work Programme.

**The Pacific Australia Skills program in Solomon Islands** - *Refer Solomon Islands Side Program Brief*

**Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence against Women and Girls (PAVE)** - *Refer Solomon Islands Side Program Brief*

S47E(d)



## DELEGATION LIST

### MINISTERIAL PARTY

- **Senator the Hon Nita Green**  
*Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Tourism and Northern Australia*
- **S22(1)(a)(ii)**  
*Senior Adviser to Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs*

### OFFICIALS

- **Mr Andrew Cumpston**  
*Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic and Trade Branch – Office of the Pacific*
- **S22(1)(a)(ii)**  
*Assistant Director, Regional Trade and Private Sector Section*

## PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER - *REFER SOLOMON ISLANDS SIDE PROGRAM BRIEF*

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Local Time	Canberra Time
S22(1)(a) (ii)	
0725-0730	<i>Transfer to Australian High Commission–Annex</i>
0730-0800	<b>Informal Breakfast and PACER Plus Strategy Discussion with New Zealand Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs</b>
	<i>Venue: Australian High Commission–Annex</i>
	<i>Attire: Official PACER Plus shirt</i>
	<u><i>Australian attendees (TBC):</i></u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Andrew Cumpston (Canberra-based; Assistant Secretary Economic and Trade Branch)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Director Pacific</i>
	<i>Regional Trade and Private Sector Section)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Assistant Director)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)</li> </ul>	
	<u><i>New Zealand attendees (TBC):</i></u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adviser to Hon Simpson (TBC name)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NZ trade official (TBC name)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NZ trade official (TBC name)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Jonathan Curr, NZ High Commissioner to Solomon Islands</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<i>(First Secretary)</i>
S22(1) (a)(ii)	

Local Time		Canberra Time
	- No gift or notetaker. S22(1)(a)(ii) (Second Secretary) to provide event support.	
0800-0830	Transfer to Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	0800-0830
	<u>Car arrangements:</u>	
	- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Cumpston	
	- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) H. E. Hilton or Mr Schloeffel	
	- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)	
	S22(1) (a)(ii)	
0830-0915	<b>Opening Ceremony of 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting</b>	0830-0915
	<u>Venue:</u> Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Conference Centre	
	<u>Attire:</u> Official PACER Plus shirt	
	<u>Met by:</u>	
	- TBC	
	Attendees: AM Green, H. E. Hilton or Mr Schloeffel (TBC), S2 Mr Cumpston, S22(1)(a)(ii) 2(1) (Second Secretary) )	
0915-1030	<b>PACER Plus Ministers Meeting – morning session</b>	1030-1045
	<u>Venue:</u> FFA Conference Centre	
	S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1030-1045	Morning tea	1030-1045
1045-1200	<b>PACER Plus Ministers Meeting – morning session</b>	1045-1200
	<u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre	
	S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1230-1345	Lunch	1230-1345
1345-1430	<b>PACER Plus Ministers Meeting – afternoon session</b>	1345-1430
	<u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre	
	S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1430-1500	Afternoon Tea	1430-1500
1500-1600	<b>Adoption of communique and conclusion of PACER Plus Ministers Meeting</b>	1500-1600
	<u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre	

Local Time		Canberra Time
1600-1615	<i>Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel</i>	1600-1615
	<u><i>Car arrangements:</i></u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>PROTOCOL1: AM Green, Mr Cumpston</i></li> <li>- <i>AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel, S22(1)(a)</i></li> <li>- <i>AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</i></li> </ul>	
1630-1825	<i>Refresh and opportunities for Canberra business and/or media</i>	1630-1825
1825-1830	<i>Transfer to Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel</i>	1825-1830
	<u><i>Car arrangements:</i></u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>AUS1: AM Green, Mr Cumpston</i></li> <li>- <i>AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)</i></li> </ul>	
1830-2030	<b>PACER Plus dinner reception</b>	1830-2030
	<u><i>Venue:</i></u> <i>Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel</i>	
	<u><i>Attire:</i></u> <i>Pacific formal</i>	
	<u><i>Key attendees:</i></u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>AM Green</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Cumpston</i></li> <li>- <i>S22(1)(a)(ii)</i></li> </ul>	
	<i>S22(1)(a)(ii)</i>	
2030	<i>End of official engagements</i>	2030

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER – *REFER SOLOMON ISLANDS SIDE PROGRAM BRIEF*

# PACER PLUS STRATEGY DISCUSSION WITH NEW ZEALAND

Informal Breakfast and PACER Plus Strategy Discussion with New Zealand Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Hon Scott Simpson

**Handling Note:** S47E(d)

Discussions will follow the below agenda:

- (i) Discussion on new trade agreements in prospect for the region S33(a)(iii)
- (ii) Messaging for the National Statement (agenda item 1 in PPMM)
- (iii) Messaging on the past and future of the Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Program and the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) (agenda items 2 and 3 in PPMM)
- (iv) Policy Discussion on Pacific Trade and PACER Plus' position in the region (agenda item 5 in PPMM)
- (v) Membership and Strategic Partnerships (agenda item 6 in PPMM) S33(a)(iii)



**Hon Scott SIMPSON**

**Minister for Commerce and  
Consumer Affairs**

**Minister for the Accident  
Compensation Corporation**

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)



**Key Messages – Refer to Attachment A**

## PACER PLUS MINISTERS MEETING

<p><b>Time and Place</b></p> <p>Thursday, 27 November</p> <p>08:30am-16:30pm</p> <p>Honiara</p>	<p><b>Australia Delegation</b></p> <p>Senator, the Hon. Nita Green, Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs</p> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii), Senior Adviser to the Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs</p> <p>Andrew Cumpston, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic and Trade Branch, DFAT</p> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii) Assistant Director, Pacific Regional Trade and Private Sector Section, DFAT</p>
<p><b>Handling note</b></p> <p>Meetings in the Pacific are often opened and closed with a prayer.</p> <p>At PPMM, Australia may be seated closest to the Chair (Solomon Islands) near the head of the Conference Table.</p> <p>S47E(d)</p>	
<p><b>Strategic context</b></p> <p>S33a(iii), S47E(d)</p>	
<p>You will announce, together with New Zealand, a new PACER Plus Support Package S47E(d) at the PPMM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S47E(d)</li> </ul>	

## Event run sheet

Local Time		Canberra Time
0815	<i>Transfer from Heritage Park Hotel to Forum Fisheries Agency</i>	0815
0830	Cultural Welcome	0830
0850	Opening of 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer by Brothers of the Church Melanesia               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hymn, Reading and Prayer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Welcome Address by Permanent Secretary Ambassador Collin Beck</li> <li>• Keynote Address by Honourable Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele</li> <li>• Official Group Photo</li> <li>• Closing of Opening Ceremony</li> </ul>	0850
0915	<i>Morning Tea</i>	0915
0940	Adoption of Agenda	0940
0945	Agenda Item 1: National Statements	0945
1015	Agenda Item 2: Report of the Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Programme 2021/2025	1015
1030	Agenda Item 3: Strategic Priorities for 2025-2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Steps 2026 for finalisation of DEC Work Programme</li> </ul>	1030
1100	Agenda Item 4: Policy Discussion on Trade in the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Regional Architecture Report: Pacific Island Forum Leaders Decisions</li> <li>• Forum Trade Ministers Meeting Outcomes</li> </ul>	1100
1130	Agenda Item 5: Membership & Strategic Partnerships	1130
1200	Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business	1200
1230	<i>Lunch and Ministerial Talanoa</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ministers only in a room with buffet-style lunch</i></li> </ul>	1230
1400	Agenda Item 7: Signing of PACER Plus Legal Documents for 2025-2030 - the Implementing Arrangement 2025-2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of the PPIU will be the Master of Ceremonies</li> <li>• Chair (Solomon Islands) will open with remarks and the first signature</li> <li>• Australia invited for remarks and signature</li> </ul>	1400

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand invited for remarks and signature</li> <li>• Other PACER Plus countries to sign</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul>	
1430	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	1430
1500	Agenda Item 8: Adoption of Communiqué	1500
1530	<i>Closure of Meeting</i>	1530

## Pacific Delegation



**Tingika ELIKANA (EL-E-KAH-NAH)**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration**

**COOK ISLANDS**

**Form of Address:** Honourable Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)



**Tukabu TAUATI (TU-KA-BU TAU-AHS)**

**High Commissioner to Fiji**

**KIRIBATI (KI-RI-BUS)**

**Form of Address:** High Commissioner

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)



**Hon Scott SIMPSON**

**Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
and Minister for the Accident Compensation  
Corporation**

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)



**Crossley TATUI (TAH-TOO-EE)**

**Minister for Finance and Infrastructure**

**NIUE**

**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)





**Hon. Fata Ryan SCHUSTER (SHOO-STER)****Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour****SAMOA****Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)**Peter SHANEL (SHA-NEL) Agovaka****Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade****SOLOMON ISLANDS****Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

**Kapelieli (KAH-PEH-LEE-EH-LEE) LANUMATA****Minister for Trade and Economic Development****TONGA****Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)**Paulson (PAUL-SON) PANAPA****Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade****TUVALU****Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(  
) (iii)**Joe Pakoa LUI [LOO-EE]****Acting Director General of Foreign Affairs****Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International  
Cooperation and External Trade (MFAICET)****VANUATU****Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)



## Opening of 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

The Chair will call the meeting to order and opening formalities to be observed.

- i. Opening Prayer by Brothers of the Church Melanesia
  - a. Hymn
  - b. Reading
  - c. Prayer
- ii. Welcome Address by Permanent Secretary Ambassador Collin Beck
- iii. Keynote Address by Honourable Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele
- iv. Official Group Photo
- v. Closing of Opening Ceremony

### Background

PACER Plus has 10 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Nauru signed but hasn't ratified the agreement.

The PACER Plus trade agreement is comprehensive, with chapters on trade in goods and services, investment, movement of natural persons (focussed on skilled labour), and an Arrangement on Labour Mobility (focussed on semi-skilled or unskilled labour).

### Adoption of Agenda

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

Ministers will be invited to consider and endorse the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: National Statements****Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

This is the first agenda item that will invite interventions from Ministers. The Chair and/or PPIU will provide an opening statement on global trade uncertainty and its impact on the region. It is expected that Ministers will deliver their opening remarks that aim to set the tone of discussions for the day.

This is the most appropriate agenda item for you to make the **announcement** of Australia's support package for PACER Plus 2025-2030 and highlight the broad remit and achievements of Australia's development support.

**Intervention – *Refer to Attachment B***

## AGENDA ITEM 2: Report of the DEC Work Programme 2020-2025

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

This is an opportunity for Australia to advocate for regular and ongoing improvements to the delivery of the Development and Economic Cooperation Work Program and the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU).

This item is an update and will invite interventions from Ministers. The Chair and/or PPIU will provide an opening statement on global trade uncertainty and its impact on the region. It is expected that Ministers will deliver their opening remarks to set the tone for discussions over the course of the day.

### **Intervention – *Refer to Attachment B***

#### **Background**

##### The PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU)

The PPIU was established as an independent international organisation in Samoa in 2024. A Contracted Services Provider was delivering the DEC Work Programme and supporting a transition to the PPIU between 2021 to 2023. Up to 2023, majority of the operation was online due to the pandemic.

Australia and New Zealand provided AUD 25 million for the first DEC cycle. The PPIU delivered the Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Programme.

##### DEC Work Program

The DEC Work Program, implemented by the PPIU, helps Members implement their PACER Plus commitments while fostering an enabling environment at the national and regional levels to facilitate trade. Activities include work on trade in goods (Rules of Origin, Customs, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade), trade in services, investment, movement of natural persons, and labour mobility.

PACER Plus' Governance Framework sets out decision making for the activities within the DEC Work Program, with PACER's Joint Committee (JC) as the highest decision-making body. The Budget Committee sits beneath the JC and oversees the operations and delivery of the DEC Work Program by the PPIU. Several technical committees discuss and develop technical capacity building activities for the DEC Work Program.

##### Key reflections highlighted by recent reviews include:

- Establishment of the PPIU, its operational processes, and roll out of the new Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptation (MELA) Framework.
- Trade Facilitation modernisation in customs, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, and border procedures.
- Women-led SMEs and vulnerable groups supported through the DEC Work Programme.
- Success stories from Vanuatu, Niue, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Cook Islands demonstrate real-world impact.

- Strengthened Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM), including intra-Pacific pilot programs and reintegration support.
- National e-commerce strategies launched in Samoa, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Cook Island with toolkits to support MSMEs and women entrepreneurs.
- Measured success for businesses including
  - Lapita Café (Vanuatu): Received HACCP certification support, enabling compliance with international food safety standards.
  - Niue Honey (Niue): Overcame supply chain disruptions with PACER Plus support to source custom bottles locally.
  - SolTuna (Solomon Islands): Benefited from tariff-free exports and expanded into new regional markets.
  - Cathliro Commodities: Received equipment and training to diversify into dried fruits and value-added cocoa.
  - Farmers Association (Samoa): Over 1,000 farmers supported with tools and equipment for trade readiness.
  - Uniquely Cook Islands Branding: Cultural branding initiative co-designed and funded to promote national identity and export competitiveness.

S33(a)(iii)

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Strategic Priorities for 2025-2030****Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

This agenda item will invite Ministers to endorse the renewal of the Implementing Arrangement for PACER Plus and the strategic priorities for the next phase of PACER Plus support.

This agenda item is the opportunity to reinforce the value proposition of PACER Plus for Members. S47E(d)

**Intervention – *Refer to Attachment B*****Background**Governance Reform

In recognition that all decisions in PACER Plus are consensus-based, Australia has been a strong advocate for worthwhile and achievable governance reforms to unlock greater value for members.

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

Strategic priorities

The DEC Work Programme supports implementation of the binding obligations of Parties, from the Agreement. The extent to which the strategic priorities could be implemented rested on the status of Parties' implementation of their treaty obligations (i.e., implementation starts with policy frameworks before they can support private sector). The priorities include:

- Legislation and Policy Reform - Development or review of legislation, regulation, or policy to deliver on PACER Plus obligations.
- Public Sector Capacity Building and Operational Support - developing or acquiring the skills, competencies, tools, processes and resources needed to improve the capacity of the public sector to implement their obligations under PACER Plus.
- Private Sector Productive Capacity Development - to enhance the enabling environment for business through policy development and reform, technology transfer and business information and development initiatives. This also included targeted assistance for private sectors to seize and optimize opportunities under PACER Plus.
- Data Collection – Establish mechanisms to collect and analyse data on PACER Plus implementation.

PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility

The Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM) is a non-treaty arrangement which sits alongside the PACER Plus Agreement, to strengthen labour mobility cooperation in the region. S33(a)(iii)

The ALM also establishes the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM), which is a forum for discussions on the policy surrounding regional labour mobility. At the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting and the most recent PLMAM on 3-6 November 2025, Members called for more sustainably resourcing labour mobility under PACER Plus. S33(a)(iii)

Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM)

S33(b)

S33(a)(iii)

The endorsed PRLMPs recognise need to avoid duplication with the ALM under the PACER Plus. The PIF Economic Ministers meeting is studying the socio-economic impacts of human mobility.

S33(a)(iii)

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Policy Discussion on Trade in the Pacific**

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

S33a(iii), S47E(d)

**Intervention – *Refer to Attachment B*****Background**

The PPIU were granted observer status to the Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, subject to the Review of Regional Architecture outcomes. While PACER Plus was originally a PIF Secretariat initiative, it was set up independently from the Secretariat at the request of the Pacific Island country signatories to the Agreement. S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

**2050 Strategy – Resource and Economic Development**

PIF Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy at the 2022 Leaders Meeting in Suva, Fiji. The 2050



Strategy reinforces the PIF at the apex of the regional architecture and cements the value of regional cooperation to achieve collective benefits for members.

Seven interconnected themes within the 2050 Strategy define key areas of cooperation for PIF Leaders' discussions and decisions: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centred Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; and Technology and Connectivity.

The Resource and Economic Development theme highlights the importance of accelerating the region's economic growth aspirations. Recommendations under this theme include diversifying investment portfolios; increasing the role of the private sector in important areas such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry, mining and tourism and cultural industries; and, boosting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Australia works with other PIF members to deliver joint action across the thematic areas. This includes deepening integration of our economies through tariff-free trade, labour mobility, banking services, internet connectivity and infrastructure provision; safeguarding future prosperity and security by delivering climate change action; nurturing people-to-people and cultural links; and strengthening cooperation to enhance regional security.

#### Review of the Regional Architecture

Originally tasked by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders in 2019, the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) aims to shape an effective and fit for purpose regional architecture to deliver on the ambitions of the 2050 Strategy.

At the 2025 PIF Leaders Meeting, Leaders approved the majority of recommendations for the RRA. Key decisions for action included:

- establishing a Forum Foreign Policy (details unclear)
- reviewing and aligning regional ministerial meetings with the seven thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy, including Peace and Security, People-Centred Development and Technology and Connectivity
- establishing a mechanism for political dialogue and brokering to manage issues where PIF consensus is at risk

Leaders requested officials further consider options for rationalisation of the regional architecture and the proposed consolidation of the nine Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies into a three-pillar model was not agreed.

The recommendations considered by Leaders were developed by a High Level Persons Group of eminent Pacific persons through consultations with PIF Leaders or their delegates. S33a(iii), S47E(d)

Australia is closely engaged in the process, which is being led by the PIF Secretariat.

#### Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Principles

The Pacific Islands Forum-led Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Principles was raised at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting in July. Consensus was not reached then. However, Australia endorsed the Principles at the PIF Leaders Meeting in Honiara this year. These recognise need to avoid duplication with the ALM under the PACER Plus. The PIF Economic Ministers meeting is studying the socio-economic impacts of human mobility.

S33(a)(iii)

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Membership & Strategic Partnerships**

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii)

**Intervention – *Refer to Attachment B***

**Background**

S33a(iii), S47E(d)

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Any Other Business****Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

This agenda item is unlikely to raise any further issues.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Signing of PACER Plus Legal Documents for 2025-2030**

**Handling Note:** You will deliver short remarks to (re)announce the funding for PACER Plus with media presence. There will be no questions from media.

This agenda item will include a choreographed signing ceremony for the various documents that will renew the DEC Work Program for a second phase (2025-2030).

Your remarks will reflect on the day's meeting as a reinforcement of why Australia was pleased to announce an increased funding envelope for PACER Plus 2025-2030.

**Brief remarks – *refer to Attachment B*****Background**

The Implementing Arrangement for the DEC Work Programme and PACER Plus requires signature by Members to renew the arrangements for 2025-2030. The Implementing Arrangement outlines the scope of the DEC Work Program in the context of other regional investments and commits Australia and New Zealand to ensuring that 20% of their Pacific Official Development Assistance (ODA) is Aid for Trade.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Adoption of Communiqué**

**Handling Note:** S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

Ministers may need to negotiate and agree to the PACER Plus Communiqué.

The draft Communiqué will be negotiated by officials during an afternoon tea.

## PACER PLUS RECEPTION

<b>Time and Place</b>  Wednesday, 16 July 18:30-20:30 Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel	<b>Australian Delegation</b>  Senator, the Hon. Nita Green, Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs S22(1)(a)(ii), Senior Adviser to the Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Andrew Cumpston, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic and Trade Branch, DFAT S22(1)(a) Assistant Director, Pacific Regional Trade and Private Sector Section, DFAT
<b>Handling note</b>  The Government of Solomon Islands is hosting a formal reception for the PACER Plus family of Ministers and officials.  This reception is expected to be informal, but will provide an opportunity for pull-asides with fellow Ministers.  <b>Strategic Objectives</b>  This informal gathering is a chance to strengthen the rapport built with Ministers following the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting S47E(d)	

**Talking Points – Refer to Attachment C**

## KEY ISSUES BRIEFS

### COP31 TALKING POINTS

- Australia's motivation to bid for a Pacific COP31 has always been to elevate and amplify Pacific voices and interests, and support multilateralism.
  - This deal ensures we have delivered on that aim.
- Engagement with Pacific partners has been central to our approach
  - PIF Foreign Ministers agreed a campaign plan – endorsed by PIF Leaders - which we have been advancing together.
  - we have come together at every step of the way – through PIF Leaders' and Foreign Ministers' Meetings, Climate Minister Talanoa and Pacific Senior Officials Taskforce – to align and advance our joint advocacy
    - including on the ground at COP30 in Belem.
- Irrespective of the outcome, our work together over more than three years to promote a Pacific COP has brought further global attention to the urgent and existential threat climate change is for our region
  - and to the skilled and long-standing climate leadership of the Pacific.
- Australia's commitment to ambitious climate action remains alongside our steadfast commitment to our Pacific partnerships.
- Together we will continue to champion our regional climate priorities to:
  - elevate the importance of a healthy ocean
  - emphasise the importance of keeping temperatures as close as possible to 1.5°C
  - make access to climate finance easier
  - focus attention on adaptation and loss and damage, and
  - embed traditional knowledge into climate solutions.

S47E(d)

- S47E(d)

## LABOUR MOBILITY

### Key Issues

- Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme participating countries highly value the scheme – particularly for remittances, skills training and opportunities for their workers.
  - In the 2024-25 financial year, PALM scheme workers sent an estimated \$450 million in remittances back into the region.
- The Government has committed nearly \$440 million over successive budgets to grow and strengthen the PALM scheme to deliver on the region's ambitions and meet industry needs.
- The Government is listening and responding to Pacific priorities for more skills development opportunities and is
  - piloting opportunities in the expansion of the PALM scheme into the Early Childhood Education and Care sector for 14 educators from PNG
  - providing the opportunity for workers to attain a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) through the aged care expansion (ACE) program [723 graduates as at October 2025]
  - implementing pilot that allows up to 200 families to live in Australia with PALM workers during their time in Australia.
- S33(a)(iii)
- The Australian Government has introduced a range of measures to strengthen support and protections for PALM scheme workers, including:



- settings above minimum legislated standards, including minimum hours and pay safety net, increased transparency of deductions and accommodation standards
- access to welfare and wellbeing support including a 24/7 support line and grievance reporting processes.
- Worker numbers have stabilised since August 2024 – largely due to reduced demand from the agricultural sector
  - S47E(d)

### Background

As at September 2025, there were 31,225 PALM workers in Australia:

- 14,860 were short-term workers and 16,365 were long-term workers
- 55 percent of workers are in the agricultural sector, followed by meat processing (36 per cent)
- 523 approved PALM scheme employers.

### PACER and PALM countries worker numbers – at September 2025

Kiribati	Nauru	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
1,535	40	2,215	5,075	3,315	290	6,320
PALM scheme countries not in PACER: Fiji, PNG, Timor-Leste						
Forum island countries not in the PALM scheme: Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands						

## PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

### Key Issues

- Australia has been a strong supporter for Pacific private sector growth through partnerships that:
  - support market access for Pacific producers, especially in the agricultural sector [\$63m since 2016 between the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus Program (PHAMA), Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) Australia and Europe, and the Permanent PIF Delegation to the WTO]; and
  - upskill businesses and individuals in sectors that are important to economic growth, employment and development, such as tourism [\$142m since 2017 through the Market Development Facility (MDF)].
  - improve the enabling environment for businesses [\$35m since 2019 through the Private Sector Development Initiative];
- S47E(d)

### Background

**Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA) Plus Program** - \$64 million from 2018 to 2026 (Australia and New Zealand funding) - helps PICs develop and maintain agricultural market access by assisting them to meet biosecurity and quality requirements. PHAMA Plus has helped open, maintain, and improve Australian and New Zealand market access for beef, taro, watermelon, cooked breadfruit, ginger, copra, fresh Tahitian limes and sawn timber. It has also enabled access to global markets for cocoa, coffee, squash, kava and fish.

PHAMA Plus developed the *Tonga Kava Quality Standards* in 2020 which were endorsed by the Government of Tonga at the time. S33a(iii), S47E(d)

**Market Development Facility (MDF)** - \$142 million from 2017 to 2027, currently operating in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu and previously in PNG, as well as several regions outside the Pacific. MDF is a multi-country initiative connecting individuals, businesses, governments, and non-governmental organisations with markets at home and abroad providing co-investment, business advice and acting as an innovation laboratory.

**Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) with Asian Development Bank** - \$35

million from 2020 to 2025, works with 14 PICs to reduce unnecessary costs of doing business in the Pacific and to enable private sectors to formalise and grow. PSDI engages in finance for growth, business law reform, competition and consumer protection, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and public private partnerships (PPPs), tourism and women's economic empowerment.

PSDI supported to the Fijian Ministry of Trade, Co-Operatives and SMEs and the Reserve Bank of Fiji in developing and finalising the *Access to Business Funding Act*, which passed the Fijian Parliament in March 2025. The technical assistance helped Fiji established a robust regulatory framework for new financing mechanisms like crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending, and small offer regimes. This legislation makes Fiji the first Pacific country to adopt such a comprehensive framework, aiming to close the financing gap for micro, small and medium enterprises, particularly those in rural areas and women-led businesses, thus fostering inclusive economic growth.

**DFAT-DAFF Pacific Biosecurity Partnership Program** - \$8.15 million from 2020-27 is driving agricultural sector growth and improved food security through better market access and biosecurity outcomes. The program is building capacity with PICs to meet Australia's biosecurity requirements, strengthening a regional plant pest data base, rolling out an ePhyto exchange platform and progressing numerous Pacific market access requests.

## DIGITAL TRADE

### Key Issues

- The digital economy has had a profound impact on the way the world does business
  - to unlock its full benefits, we need carefully calibrated, internationally agreed rules that ensure digital trade is transparent, free, fair and inclusive.
- The WTO Agreement on E-Commerce (ECA) is a major milestone in establishing the first ever set of baseline rules on e-commerce with global reach
  - When in force, the ECA will reduce the cost and complexity of cross-border trade and has been designed specifically to support developing countries to share fully in the benefits of the digital economy.
    - These rules will provide predictability, support women entrepreneurs, link regional and remote areas to markets, and help bridge the digital divide.
- Encourage Pacific Island WTO Members to consider joining the ECA, and to support its incorporation into the WTO Agreements
  - Australia stands ready to assist through capacity building and technical assistance initiatives and development partnerships
    - including with the Pacific E-Commerce Initiative, UNCTAD, and the World Bank.
- Encourage Pacific Island WTO Members to join Australia in supporting the WTO E-Commerce Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, due to expire at the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference next March unless renewed
  - the moratorium underpins the growth of the digital economy by ensuring the free flow of data across borders that is critical to digitally enabled trade.

### Background

Australia co-convenes the WTO E-Commerce Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) with Japan and Singapore. In 2024, JSI participants concluded negotiations on the ECA, the first global set of digital trade rules. We are now working to bring the ECA into force through incorporation into the WTO Agreements (which requires the consensus of all members). There are no Pacific Island Country members of the JSI, but membership would bring significant benefits to them as the ECA is focused on inclusive development and supporting developing economies to overcome structural barriers in the digital economy.

The WTO moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions has been in place since 1998 and has regularly been renewed at WTO Ministerial Conferences, along with the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. Renewal at MC14 remains a key objective for many WTO members, including Australia <sup>S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)</sup>

## Kava

### Key Issues

- Pleased to see that the Pacific has expanded exports of quality, noble kava to Australia through our commercial importation arrangements since December 2021 [though the pilot phase ended in Dec 2023, importing arrangements continue].
  - As of October 2025, nearly 600 tonnes (*597 exact*) tonnes of kava from 351 different suppliers, have been exported to Australia from the Pacific since commercial importation commenced [1 December 2021].
- We are investing in Pacific kava sector development through our economic programs, supporting growers, exporters and industry groups
  - to help exporters meet international import requirements such as quality standards, testing and labelling, and
  - promote kava as a uniquely Pacific product.
- Acknowledge kava market access to Australia is an important issue for the Pacific region
  - While the kava pilot arrangements continue, we continue to work with our Department of Health to secure a long-term import framework, S47E(D)
- S47E(d)

### Sensitivities

- S33(a)(iii)

– S33(a)(iii)

## Background

### Import Statistics of Kava into Australia (1 December 2021 – 30 June 2025)

Country	Quantity (kg)	Suppliers	Entries
Fiji	253,748	663	207
New Zealand	21,875.55	59	40
Papua New Guinea	2,050	2	2
Samoa	282	3	3
Solomon Islands	326.24	4	4
Tonga	197,859.3	193	69
Vanuatu	120,885.3	207	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>597026.39</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>351</b>

*\* New Zealand is not a kava producing nation. This statistic suggests that kava is imported from kava-producing nations through New Zealand either for logistical routes, or due to value-addition in NZ*

Kava is both an important cultural tradition and an economic driver in the Pacific. For example, Kava exports made up three percent of Vanuatu's GDP in 2023 (VT 4,097m or AUD 51m), and Fiji exported 501 metric tonnes of kava globally with an export value of AUD 26m (FJD 38.1m).

S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(c)

The growing kava trade has been warmly welcomed by the region S33(b)

An external study commissioned for the kava pilot reported positive Pacific market system impacts; including increased trade between Australia and Pacific exporting nations, income for exporters and opportunities for women and youth.

S33(a)(iii)

## WTO FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

### Key Issues

- Value our close, longstanding cooperation with the WTO's Pacific island Members.
- We were proud to work with Pacific island countries to conclude the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in June 2022.
- Warmly welcome the entry into force of the Agreement on 15 September 2025
  - congratulate Tonga on depositing its instrument of acceptance at the special ceremony in Geneva [*on 15 September 2025*]
  - encourage remaining Pacific WTO Members [*Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu*] to deposit their instruments of acceptance.
- The WTO Fisheries Fund Mechanism is now available to help developing and least-developed Members implement the Agreement
  - there was a strong response to the first call for funding applications, including a quality project proposal from Tonga
  - encourage other eligible Pacific WTO Members to consider applying in subsequent funding rounds - noting the Fund is only open to WTO Members that have accepted the Agreement.
- Want to continue working together to amplify the Pacific voice in ongoing 'second wave' negotiations on subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing
  - the four-year countdown to conclude negotiations has begun
  - important that the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO [*26-29 March 2026 in Cameroon*] injects fresh momentum into the negotiations
  - Australia will continue working pragmatically to find creative solutions to outstanding issues.

### Background

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is the first set of global rules to limit harmful fisheries subsidies. It entered into force on 15 September 2025, after two-thirds of WTO Members deposited their instruments of acceptance with the WTO Secretariat.

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)



S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

The WTO Fisheries Fund Mechanism was established to help developing and least-developed WTO Members implement their obligations under the Agreement. The first call for funding proposals closed in October 2025 and applications are currently being assessed. Australia has contributed \$2 million to the Fund.

## BANKING

### Key Issues

- Ensuring the Pacific remains connected to the global financial system is a high priority for the Australian Government. Banking services are critical for economic prosperity, sustainable development and financial inclusion.
- Australia has been responding to concerns of Pacific governments regarding access to vital banking services and the international financial system. Achievements include:
  - The Pacific Banking Guarantee Bill 2025, which enabled the provision of a guarantee to ANZ for a period of 10-years [commenced in October 2025] to secure their long-term commitment to the Pacific.
  - Signing the Nauru-Australia Treaty in December 2024 and securing the opening of a Commonwealth Bank of Australia presence in Nauru in August this year - replacing the departing Bendigo Bank [earlier funding had been provided to the Asian Development Bank to support this transition].
- Building upon the outcomes of the Pacific Banking Forum held in 2024, we are also supporting the PIF Strengthening Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBR) project in collaboration with the World Bank, an initiative to keep cross-border banking open and resilient in the region.
- In addition, Australia is funding Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) activities in the Pacific through capacity building by AUSTRAC, working with regulators and financial intelligence units across the region to reduce risk for commercial banks.
  - Efforts include providing technical assistance to PNG to support compliance with international AML/CTF obligations. ‘Grey-listing’ by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will set back PNG’s medium-term investment and growth prospects.

### Background

In recent years, the Pacific has faced a loss of essential banking services. This is part of a global trend towards “de-risking” [S33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

Australia co-hosted the Pacific Banking Forum in Brisbane in July 2024 with the US to advance regional dialogue on sustainable banking solutions for Pacific countries. The Forum convened Pacific governments, regulators, and development partners to address the impacts of de-risking and explore coordinated responses to financial exclusion. At the Forum the Treasurer announced \$8.6m to support PICs to establish digital identity, know-your-customer infrastructure, and explore the potential to further improve returns and reduce risk by introducing a regional payment aggregation mechanism.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

### Key Issues

- Digital connectivity is a key focus of Australia's development support in the Pacific, with investments in telecommunications, undersea cables and cyber resilience
  - which align with the ambition set out in the Lagatoi Declaration.
- Sustained Australian investment and engagement, including through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), has positioned all Pacific Island Forum countries to achieve primary undersea cable connectivity
  - ensuring the critical backbone infrastructure is in place to support the region's digital development aspirations.
- The 2025 Communique for the Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue, endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders, called for the preparation of a regional approach to enhancing digital transformation on cables, data storage and cloud solutions
  - Australia is now actively considering how we can best support a Pacific-led approach, including through engagement with industry and like minded partners to ensure secure and trusted digital solutions.

### Background

#### Lagatoi Declaration on the Digital Transformation of the Pacific

In August 2023, Pacific ICT Ministers, including former Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, endorsed the 'Lagatoi Declaration on the Digital Transformation of the Pacific' which sets out the digital transformation ambitions of the region on digital infrastructure, cyber security, capacity-building and regional coordination.

In August 2025, Australia re-affirmed its commitment to the Lagatoi Declaration at the ICT Ministerial Dialogue in Fiji.

#### Australia's support for digital connectivity in the Pacific

Australia has invested over AUD450 million to support undersea cable connectivity in the Pacific and Timor-Leste since 2018. On 19 November, you (AM Green) announced the Solomon Islands Google Submarine Cable Branch System. Other key investments include the Coral Sea Cable; Palau ECHO Branch System; East Micronesia Cable (connecting FSM, Kiribati and Nauru); Tonga Hawaiki branch system and the Tuvalu Vaka cable.

DFAT's Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre is complementing these investments with demand-driven technical assistance on policy and regulatory settings – including support for Tuvalu, Nauru and Tonga to protect their cable infrastructure.

Under the 2030 Cyber Security Strategy, Australia is progressing approximately \$16.7m of end-of-life software and hardware upgrades, including cloud pilots in multiple PICs.

## AVIATION



### Key Issues

- A safe, reliable and sustainable aviation sector, closely aligned with the tourism sector, is foundational for economic growth in the Pacific.
- The Partnerships for Aviation (P4A) program [\$100 million over five years] was established to help achieve this objective.
- P4A recognises the crucial role aviation plays in supporting economic growth, tourism and community links in a region characterised by vast distances and geographically isolated population centres.
- P4A provides a range of support, including:
  - Aviation Policy Advisers, who work with relevant stakeholders and partner governments on aviation policies and strategies to improve aviation safety and sustainability outcomes in the Pacific [advisers currently working with Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and Nauru];
  - Tourism Policy and Development Advisor, currently working with stakeholders in RMI and Tuvalu to support both become more investment ready through the development of Tourism Sector Plans (in Tuvalu closely linked to their Aviation Sector Plan)
  - installation of aviation weather observation systems and meteorological training, delivered by Australia's Bureau of Meteorology, for improved weather forecasting capabilities;
  - Australia Awards scholarships to study Aviation Management at Griffith University, and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering at Fiji National University;
  - ground support equipment to improve safety outcomes at Pacific airports; and
  - support with the drafting of airport and aviation master plans.
- Note tourism and aviation are closely interrelated
  - encourage all Pacific island countries to align tourism and aviation policies
    - recognising more flights requires a tourism market, including sufficient accommodation.
- Australia is committed to improving safe and reliable connectivity to support economic growth opportunities through the Pacific Flights Program:
  - the 'Palau Paradise Express' provides weekly direct Qantas flights between Brisbane and Palau
    - extended until December 2026 [as announced by MINPAC 19 Aug 2025]; and

- the ‘Australia-North Pacific Connector’, supporting weekly return flights operated by Nauru Airlines from Brisbane to Nauru, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, extended until 30 June 2026
- these flights play an important role connecting Australia and the North and Central Pacific by encouraging economic growth through enhanced tourism and two-way trade opportunities, access to services and markets and strengthened cultural and people to people links and play a critical role connecting Australia and the North and Central Pacific.

## BIOGRAPHIES AND PULL-ASIDES- PACER PLUS MINISTERS

### COOK ISLANDS

Tingika ELIKANA (EL-E-CAH-NAH)			
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration			
COOK ISLANDS			
	Form of Address:	Honourable Minister	
	S33(a)(iii)	S33(	
	Year of Birth:	)(iii) 1961	
	Education:	Bachelor of Laws, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ; Diploma in Public Sector Management, Massey University, NZ; Master of Business Administration, University of the South Pacific, Fiji	
Career:			
2024 +	Minister of the Crown (responsible for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Marine Resources, and Parliamentary Services)		
2019-2024	Associate Minister for Finance and Economic Management and Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration		
2012-2018	Secretary of Justice		
2009-2011	Solicitor – General		
Early Career	Deputy Solicitor-General, Crown Counsel, Police Officer.		
S33(a)			
(iii),			
S47E(d)			

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Australia's relationship with the Cook Islands continues to grow under the commitments of the *'Oa Tumanava [O-ar Too-ma-nah-va] Partnership*
  - deeply value our close friendship which enhances regional co-operation and guides our efforts to uphold Pacific unity.
- Our support for the Cook Islands reflects our commitment to navigating shared challenges
  - progress priorities for economic prosperity (through PACER Plus and Pacific Private Sector Development Initiatives), climate resilience (support for disaster preparedness) and people-to-people links (community grants for Cook Islanders).
- Interested to hear about Cook Islands' development priorities in the context of PACER Plus
  - how can the PACER Plus Implementation Unit better support the Cook Islands achieve these goals?

S33(a)(iii),  
S47E(d)

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

## KIRIBATI

Tukabu TAUATI (TU-KA-BU TAU-AHS)

High Commissioner to Fiji

KIRIBATI (KI-RI-BUS)



Form of Address: High Commissioner

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

)(iii)

Year of Birth: Unknown

Education: Unknown

## Career:

2025 – Present Kiribati High Commissioner to Fiji

S33(a)

(iii),



S47E(d)

## Key messages for pull-asides:

- Condolences for the passing of First Lady Madam Teiraeng
  - the late First Lady leaves a legacy of committed service and dedication to the people of Kiribati
  - please convey my deepest sympathies to President Maamau.
- Australia is proud to be Kiribati's largest development partner [\$39.5 million, 2025-26]
  - our support touches every sector and every island
- including health, education, climate, infrastructure, labour mobility and aviation.



## NEW ZEALAND

<p>Hon Scott <u>SIMPSON</u></p> <p>Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs</p> <p>Minister for the Accident Compensation Corporation</p> <p>NEW ZEALAND</p>		
	<p><b>Form of Address:</b> Minister</p> <p><b>S33(a)(iii)</b> <b>S33(</b> <b>)</b> <b>(iii)</b></p> <p><b>Year of Birth:</b> 1959</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Law, University of Auckland</p>	
<p><b>Career:</b></p> <p>2024 – Present</p> <p>2023 – 2025</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2011 – 2020</p>	<p>Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Minister for the Accident Compensation Corporation</p> <p>Chief Government Whip</p> <p>Previous position Minister for Statistics, Associate Minister for Immigration and Environment</p> <p>Elected to Parliament as the MP for Coramandel</p>	
<p><b>S33(a)</b> <b>(iii),</b> <b>S47E(d)</b></p>		
<p><b>Key messages for potential pull-aside:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pleasure to see you again so soon after our meeting in Canberra <i>[28 October]</i>.</li><li>• Reaffirm the trans-Tasman relationship is more important than ever as we <b>respond to rising geostrategic tensions, uphold regional security and deliver on shared Pacific priorities</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)</b> committed to working in lockstep to advance our shared interests.</li></ul></li><li>• Appreciate the close coordination between our PACER Plus teams on priorities and handling strategies in advance of this Ministerial Meeting.</li><li>• See this Ministerial Meeting as an opportunity for us to build momentum on regional economic integration and encourage new membership</li></ul>		

– S33(a)(iii)

- Value our joint efforts in encouraging a Fiji announcement on accession
  - S33(a)(iii)
- Pleased to hear the **CPTPP Trade Ministers' Meeting** in Melbourne last week *[20-21 November]* went well
  - S33(a)(iii)
- S47E(d)

## NIUE

**The Hon Crossley Tatui (TAH-TOO-EE)**

Minister for Finance and Infrastructure

NIUE



Form of Address: Honourable Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

)(iii)

Year of Birth: Unknown

Education: Public Administration,  
Management and Accounting,  
University of the South Pacific

### Career:

2020 –

Present Minister for Finance and Infrastructure

2011- Present

Common Roll Member of the Niue Legislative Assembly

Early Career

Self-employed, Planter and Writer

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)

### Key messages for pull-asides:

- Appreciate your support for the inaugural Niue-Australia Friendship Day [8 November 2025], whilst you were acting Prime Minister
  - understand activities included sporting matches, cultural events and a visit from Australian Defence Vessel 'Reliant' which delivered generators gifted by Australia to Niue
  - Friendship Day marks five years since the opening of the Australian High Commission in Alofi.

- Australia is proud to support Niuean priorities on water and sanitation, climate resilient infrastructure and economic sustainability [*\$1.8 million in 2025-26*]
  - and our ongoing support for the Niue International Trust Fund, which we provided a \$600,000 contribution to in 2025.
- A PACER Plus scoping study [*completed in January 2024*] supported Niue integrate its customs and postal systems
  - addressed coordination gaps between the two systems, resulting in improved efficiency in the processing and clearance of international shipments - enabling the launch of a new e-Commerce project [*12 November*].
- Interested to hear about Niue's development priorities in the context of PACER Plus
  - how can the PACER Plus Implementation Unit better support Niue achieve these goals?

S47E(d)

## SAMOA

<p><b>Hon. Fata Ryan SCHUSTER (SHOO-STER)</b></p> <p>Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour</p> <p>Samoa</p>		
	<p><b>Form of Address:</b> Minister</p> <p><b>S33(a)(iii)</b> S33(</p> <p><b>Year of Birth</b> )(iii) Unknown</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Unknown</p>	
<p><b>Career:</b></p> <p>August 2025: Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour</p> <p><b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b></p> <p><b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b></p> <p><b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b></p> <p><b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b></p> <p><b>S33(a)</b></p> <p><b>(iii),</b></p> <p><b>S47E(d)</b></p>		

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

Peter SHANEL (Sha-Nell) AGOVAKA

Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade

SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Form of Address:** Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(a)(iii)

**Year of Birth:** 1959**Education:** Telekom College, Papua New Guinea  
North Sydney Institute of Engineering**Career:**

May 2024	Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2015-2024	Minister of Communication and Aviation
2014-2015	Minister of Police, National Security and Correction Services
2010-2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2006-2007	Minister of Commerce, Industries and Employment
2006	Elected as Member for Central Guadalcanal
Before 2006	Liaison Officer, Gold Ridge Mining Limited

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)

## TONGA

Hon. Kapelieli Lanumata [KAH-PEH-LEE-EH-LEE // LAH-NOO-MAH-TAH]

Minister for Trade and Economic Development

TONGA



Form of Address: Minister

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

)(iii)

Year of Birth:

1979

Education:

Master of Management and Rural Development, China Agricultural Uni. (2019-2021)

Career:

2023-

Peoples' Representative for Tongatapu 10

2015-2019

Personal Assistant to the Minister for Trade and Economic

Development

-2015

Accounts, Royal Tonga Airlines/Tongan import-export companies

S33(a)

(iii),

S47E(d)

## Key messages for pull-asides:

- Australia recognises that inclusive economic development is a top priority for the Government of Tonga and is essential for long term prosperity and stability.
- That's why Australia is investing in Tonga's key economic drivers and enablers, such as tourism, agriculture, skills, energy, aviation and infrastructure, across all islands
  - and why Australia is proud to be Tonga's largest development partner
    - providing AUD69.7 million in ODA in 2025-25 [up from AUD50 million in 2024-25]
  - along with AUD85 million in budget support over 4 years [2025-29; Australia has provided a total of AUD142 million in budget support since 2020].
- Interested to hear Tonga's priorities under a new government [elections were held on 20 November].

- Pleased the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) and ADB's Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), funded by Australia, are working with you to improve Tonga's private sector enabling environment, governance and leadership
  - through PSDI, pleased we could support your recent national policy on consumer protection and competition
  - through PPIU, we supported MTED to develop the Tonga Standardisation Roadmap in collaboration with Standards Australia, to facilitate innovation and economic growth.

S47E(d)

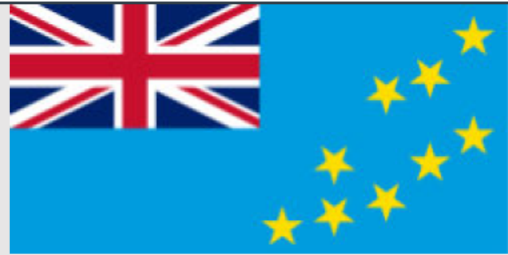
### Background

Recent projects under the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus (PHARMA Plus) program with Tonga include: increasing fumigation capacity with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests to allow higher volumes of export; delivering biosecurity, animal health and plant protection capability training; and partnering with the private sector to increase productivity to support sustainable farming practice.

You (Assistant Minister Green) met with Their Majesties on 19 September during their courtesy call with the Governor-General on their recent visit to Australia [18-24 September]. During that event the King and Governor-General witnessed signature of a Statement of Intent to elevate the Tonga-Australia relationship.



## TUVALU

**The Hon. Paulson PANAPA***[Tuvaluan Ministers are generally referred to by their first name]***Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade  
TUVALU****Form of Address:** Minister**S33(a)(iii)****S33(****)(iii)****Year of Birth:** 1967**Education:** Australia Awards alumni –  
Masters of  
Governance, University of  
South Pacific**Career:**

2024- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade

2017-2022 Tuvalu's High Commissioner to New Zealand

2014-2017 Tuvalu's High Commissioner to Fiji

~ 2011 Secretary for Education, Youth & Sports; Chairman of the USP Board

**S33(a)**  
**(iii),**  
**S47E(d)**

**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Thank you for all you have personally done to build the strong and enduring relationship between our countries under the Falepili Union
- Great to meet recently with Sir Iakoba Italeli, Speaker of the Tuvaluan Parliament, and other visiting parliamentarians
  - had productive discussions on the Falepili mobility pathway and Tuvalu's climate adaptation needs.

- Pleased with the speed of delivery of our more than \$150 million of commitments under the Falepili Union
  - we have seen milestone achievements with the connection of the Vaka undersea cable, the completion of the southern extension of the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP), and the commencement of activities under the Te Ao economic governance program
- Glad to see over 100 visas have now been granted under the Falepili Mobility Pathway
  - settlement support services are in place to promote mobility with dignity
  - as PM Feleti says, this is a two-way pathway, and we look forward to the exchange of cultures, ideas and skills enriching both countries.
- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

## VANUATU

**Joe Pakoa LUI [LOO-EE]**

Acting Director General of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and  
External Trade (MFAICET)

VANUATU

**Form of Address:** Director

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

)(iii)

**Year of Birth:**

Unknown

**Education:**Bachelor of Economics, International Business and  
Marketing (University of the South Pacific), 2010-2011

Soccer (Malapoa College)

**Career:**

2025 – Present	Acting Director General of Foreign Affairs, MFAICET
2023 – 2025	Commissioner General for the Osaka World Expo 2025
2020 – 2025	Director of External Trade, MFAICET
2018 – 2020	First Secretary (Trade & Investment), Vanuatu, High Commission, Suva, Fiji
2014 – 2018	Senior Trade Officer, MFAICET

S33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)**Key messages for pull-asides:**

- Australia and Vanuatu share a deep and enduring partnership, founded on a shared vision of a prosperous and peaceful region.
- Australia is deeply honoured to be Vanuatu's largest economic, development, security and humanitarian partner [estimated AUD123 million/Vt. 9.8 billion in ODA to Vanuatu in 2024-25].
- We are committed to enhancing our bilateral relationship through the Nakamal Agreement.
- Acknowledge Vanuatu's economic challenges [declining revenue, rising debt, recent disasters]
  - Australia is committed to supporting Vanuatu's economic security including through strengthening our trade, tourism, agricultural, skills, labour mobility and business links.

- Interested to hear about your economic priorities including potential opportunities for further collaboration, such as through Nakamal.

S47E(d)

## PACER PLUS IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

**Mr Roy LAGOLAGO (LAHNO-LAHNO)**

Head of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit

**Form of Address:** Roy

S33(a)(iii)

S33(

)(iii)

**Year of Birth:**

Unknown

**Education:**Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Sociology and  
a Master of Public Management from the Victoria  
University of Wellington, New ZealandS33(a)  
(iii),  
S47E(d)

ATTACHMENT A – STRATEGY DISCUSSION WITH NEW ZEALAND

ATTACHMENT B – PACER PLUS MINISTERS MEETING  
INTERVENTIONS

ATTACHMENT C – PACER PLUS CHEAT SHEET (RECEPTION)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**ATTACHMENT B – PACER PLUS MINISTERS MEETING INTERVENTIONS****AGENDA ITEM 1: National Statements**

Thank you Chair.

Gudfala morning everiwan (*Good-fah-lah morning ever-i-waan*).

*Acknowledgements:*

- Honourable Chair
- Honourable Ministers
- The PACER Plus Implementation Unit Head and the team,
- Senior officials
- Members of the diplomatic corps.

I also acknowledge the people of Solomon Islands, and their connection to land and sea.

The heartwarming cultural welcome today reminds of the deep and enduring bond the First Peoples of Australia share with the peoples of the Blue Pacific.

It is an honour to be here, cultivating my own connections to you and the peoples of Solomon Islands.

I would like to start by thanking the Chair for the warm hospitality and welcome to Solomon Islands...

...and extend that thanks to the PPIU for the day's arrangements.

Before I begin my remarks in regard to this meeting, I would like to briefly address the hosting arrangements for COP31.

It is not the outcome we wanted, however Australia's motivation to bid for a Pacific COP31 has always been to elevate and amplify Pacific voices and interests.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

We believe we have achieved key outcomes for the Pacific, including:

- the Pacific – with the full support of Australia – to host pre-COP in a Pacific island country, including a Leaders' component
  - this will be an opportunity to bring Leaders to see firsthand the impacts of climate change on Pacific Island countries and hear solutions from the region
- a global platform to seek pledges for the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF).

Irrespective of the outcome, our work together over more than three years to promote a Pacific COP has brought further global attention to the urgent and existential threat climate change is for our region.

Turning to today's agenda, Australia is the region's largest economic partner and we believe we are stronger together as a region.

With the PACER Plus free trade agreement at the centre of this relationship - continuing more than 40 years of tariff-free access into Australia.

In 2024, Australia imported AUD9 billion in goods and services from Pacific Island countries with a trade surplus of AUD3 billion in the Pacific's favour.

Australia's extensive assistance recognises that continued investment in capacity and infrastructure is required for our region to engage reliably and beneficially with the global trading system together.

This assistance is:

- guaranteeing essential financial services provided by Australian and Pacific banks that people and businesses can rely on across the region
- Linking us digitally by delivering faster and more reliable digital services through undersea cables
  - with all Pacific island countries expected to have an undersea cable by the end of next month
- connecting our peoples by supporting aviation connectivity through the \$100 million Partnerships for Aviation Program which has carried over 42,000 passengers and 570 tonnes of cargo



OFFICIAL:Sensitive

- building climate resilient infrastructure, with over \$2 billion in active projects in the region
- delivering employment opportunities and economic linkages for Pacific communities through labour mobility
  - In the 2024-25 financial year alone, the PALM scheme supported over 30,000 workers who sent an estimated \$450 million in remittances back into the region
  - and by supporting the development of Pacific business, with over \$50 million in active investments.

Australia's support for our region's economic prosperity has trade at its centre, delivering 28 per cent growth in Australia's imports from Pacific island countries since 2019.

The rate of growth for PACER Plus Pacific island countries is even faster than this.

This reflects a region that is more integrated and cohesive.

Chair, at a time of significant flux in trade relationships and development assistance.

Australia continues to play our part – reflecting the importance we attach to the prosperity of our nearest neighbours.

Today, I am pleased to announce Australia's renewed support package of **\$23.2 million** for the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme.

Australia is responding to Members' calls in the next phase of PACER Plus to sustainably resource Labour Mobility and build critical reform that offers better outcomes for all.

I look forward to engaging in important toktok with my colleagues today as we set the tone for a new phase in regional trade and integration.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Report of the DEC Work Programme 2020-2025**

I wish to congratulate the PACER Plus Implementation Unit and Members for what has been achieved through the Work Program over its first five years.

Despite challenges that have had a protracted impact on our region.

The Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme has made a valuable contribution to progressing regional economic integration, including:

- harmonising customs processes and other trade facilitation systems
- piloting successful intra-Pacific labour mobility
- and modernising regional trade by capitalising on the promise of e-commerce.

We appreciate the importance of delivering a Work Program that addresses the unique context of each Member and is responsive to evolving priorities.

We recognise that Members are ultimately responsible for the outcomes, but it is important that we enable an Implementation Unit that can support our journey.

I commend the efforts of officials for driving critical reform into the next phase of the Work Programme.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Strategic Priorities for 2025-2030**

Australia has longstanding ambition to grow and strengthen our people-to-people and business-to-business connections...

...dating back to early foundations of regional trade through the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement – SPARTECA, which was narrowly focused on goods trade.

PACER Plus is modernising regional trade - with the inclusion of chapters on trade in services, investment and labour mobility.

Australia's import statistics show that since 2019, imports from the Pacific to Australia has grown by 28 per cent.

With more than twice as much growth observed from PACER Plus Members.

Australia is importing more agricultural goods from the Pacific such as kava, cocoa, vanilla and honey and sending more tourists to the region as well.

For example, over the past four years Australia has imported nearly 600 tonnes of kava from over 350 different suppliers...

...and in 2024, more than 580,000 Australians visited the region, supporting the tourism sector.

We recognise the importance of the private sector in sustaining this growth and are proud to back Pacific-led solutions to help Pacific business thrive, such as:

- PHAMA Plus
- Market Development Facility (or MDF)
- Pacific Trade Invest – both its Australian and European arms
- the Private Sector Development Initiative (delivered by the Asian Development Bank)
- the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative and the Pacific E-Commerce Initiative
  - in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- and the Pacific Digital Economic Program.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

- We also recognise the risk of duplication and emphasise that these programs are inclusive platforms for cooperation, underpinned by robust evaluative and data-informed approaches.

S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

Turning to labour mobility, the Arrangement on Labour Mobility and the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM)...

...both managed and delivered by the PACER Plus Implementation Unit forms an important part of the regional architecture.

Australia's increased support package for PACER Plus recognises this and responds to Members' calls to sustainably resource the Implementation Unit to drive priority labour mobility initiatives in the region.

At a time of global aid reductions, it is important that we drive efforts to improve the efficacy of a future DEC Work Programme, PPIU and Labour Mobility forum through reforms that promote:

- learning and adaptation
- evidence-backed solutions
- and closer collaboration and coordination with our wider suite of regional programs targeting private sector and trade growth.

Chair, Australia's commitment to PACER Plus for the next five years is an endorsement of what has been achieved...

...and a statement of our positive view about the potential of Pacific integration to grow prosperity for the region.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Policy Discussion on Trade in the Pacific**

I am pleased to have the opportunity to once again engage in toktok with colleagues I met at the recent Forum Trade Ministers Meeting in Suva.

Where our joint statement was clear in expressing the importance of the open, multilateral, rules-based trading system, with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core.

We know that trade is a cornerstone of economic development aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, delivering mutual stability and predictability

And now is the time to draw upon the strength we have as a regional grouping to tackle global challenges.

While we will not agree on every issue, we are stronger as a region through integration.

Australia has been a longstanding supporter of trade development through the Forum.

With an increased investment of over \$25 million for 2024-2027 to the Aid for Trade Strategy, the Pacific Trade and Invest Network, and the Pacific Islands Forum's Geneva representation.

The entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies [on 15 September 2025] exemplifies the power of regionalism.

This was a significant achievement for our region, for environmental sustainability and for the WTO.

I wish to congratulate Tonga on depositing their instrument of acceptance...

...and commend Tonga their proactivity to the first call for funding applications from the WTO Fisheries Fund Mechanism.

I encourage other WTO Members present here to deposit their instruments of acceptance and consider applying in subsequent funding rounds.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

The growing collaboration between PACER Plus and the Pacific Islands Forum is a critical step in ensuring the DEC Work Programme remains aligned to the 2050 Strategy.

And Australia welcomes greater integration of PACER Plus to the regional architecture

Australia was also pleased to endorse the Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Principles (Principles) at PIF Leaders Meeting (PIFLM)...

... and in the spirit of increasing collaboration, we must ensure the Principles complement – not duplicate – work on labour mobility under PACER Plus.

A strength of the DEC Work Programme has been its ability to drive regional policy discussion to progress issues in labour mobility, hearing from government, private sector and participants.

This is while focusing on facilitating practical outcomes for Members such as through the intra-Pacific labour mobility...

...it is important that the Implementation Unit can maintain capacities to continue servicing Members as such.

Finally, in summary, I was moved at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, as I am now, by our strong shared sentiment and collective advocacy on progressing regional economic integration...

...with PACER Plus as the region's driving vehicle.

S47E(d)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

S47E(d)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Membership & Strategic Partnerships**

Chair, as trading nations, we committed to facilitating inclusive regional trade by removing barriers and increasing productivity.

We have to inject new energy and boost our regional trading architecture to strengthen our resilience to shocks and economic coercion.

At the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting, and once again at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting.

Ministers reaffirmed the inclusive and cooperative principles of PACER Plus to realise economic integration.

As Members, we committed to advocating and promoting the benefits of a PACER Plus to our fellow Forum Island partners...

...recognising the unique contributions we can bring to regional trade and how our collective resilience grew with increased membership.

We committed to encouraging other Forum Members accede to PACER Plus.

Australia remains committed to this vision and welcomes interest from our fellow Forum Island Members to join. We are more prosperous together.

Chair, on the question of strategic partnerships to PACER Plus, including from non-Forum Island Members, Australia acknowledges the importance of the Implementation Unit's role in securing resourcing for Members' priorities.

However strategic partnerships must be accompanied with genuine resourcing to give value for Members.

S47E(d)



OFFICIAL:Sensitive

S47E(d)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Signing of PACER Plus Lega Documents for 2025-2030**

This meeting today has highlighted how our region is not immune to economic events far from our shores.

But I am assured that when we are joined up, and uphold the principles of rules based trade, respect, inclusion and regional cooperation – there is a lot we can do to take control of our own prosperity and stability.

PACER Plus is that essential platform that will support this endeavour

and that is why today I am proud to represent Australia, as the region's largest economic partner, in signing this document. I am also proud to announce our commitment to \$23 million Australian dollars for the next five years to support member's trade ambitions through PACER Plus.

I look forward to working with all members of PACER Plus to building a more resilient and prosperous Pacific.

## PACER PLUS DINNER RECEPTION

- Appreciate Solomon Islands Government's warm hospitality
- Been looking forward to this informal gathering tonight
  - so we could talk honestly and openly about our shared challenges
    - in working together, we create powerful opportunities to secure our economic prosperity.

### **Accessions**

- Now is an important time to reinforce our economic security
  - our strength will grow with increased membership.
- Welcome views on inviting accessions from Forum Island countries (FICs)
  - Fiji, Nauru, RMI have renewed interest recently
- S47E(d)
- Encourage advocacy to FICs, not in PACER Plus
  - S47E(d)
- S47E(d)

### **Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Program**

- Pleased we are reinforcing efforts to strengthen regional trade
  - Australia is a strong supporter of the **free, fair and transparent** rules-based trading system
- As Members, we are accountable for the outcomes of the DEC Work Program
  - Important we encourage continuous improvements in the Implementation Unit and the DEC Work Program.

S47E(d)

**Attachment A - Key messages: PACER Plus Strategy Discussion with New Zealand**

- S33(a)(iii)
  - S33(a)(iii)
- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

***National Statement (agenda item 1)***

- Australia will reinforce our economic partnership with the region
  - and highlight how our broad remit of support contributes to trade
- Announcing Australia's support package of \$23.2 million for PACER Plus [2025-2030].

***Past and future of the DEC Work Program and the PPIU (agenda items 2 and 3)***

- We will congratulate Members on past implementation and achievements
- Highlight importance of enabling a PPIU that can support their implementation and advocate for continuous improvement to the DEC Work Program and the PPIU, noting that Members are ultimately responsible for achievements.
- Encourage Members to leverage other economic investments for 2025-30 (i.e., PHAMA Plus, Market Development Facility, Pacific Trade and Invest, Private Sector Development Initiative)
- Note that Australia's funding includes support for labour mobility, following calls from Ministers at the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting.

***Policy Discussion on Pacific Trade and PACER Plus' position in the region (agenda item 5)***

- We will highlight the importance of regionalism (after the FTMM joint statement for rules-based trade) and the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement's entry into force exemplifying this
- Endorse PPIU's observer status at FTMM and welcome the PIF and PACER Plus collaboration
- S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)

***Membership and Strategic Partnerships (agenda item 6)***

- We will advocate for inclusive membership growth from all Forum Island countries.
  - S33(a)(iii), S47E(d)
- If required, also reiterate that PACER Plus support will grow as membership does and offer support for future accession processes (i.e., analysis, negotiations, accession, ratification).

## ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS VISIT TO SOLOMON ISLANDS, 26-28 NOVEMBER 2025

### Key messages

#### *PACER Plus*

- Australia is committed to the rules-based trading system that has underpinned the region's economic stability and prosperity
  - we have provided tariff free and quota free access for goods for 40 years.
- Australia is a proud Member of PACER Plus, supporting Pacific-solutions to economic integration and trade modernisation.
- During global trade volatility, our region can be source of economic predictability and stability. Growth in PACER Plus membership would only strengthen this.
  - It is important that our region can continue to signal to the world our commitment to free and open trade.
- As the region's largest development partner and export destination, we are committed to your economic growth.
  - Australia (with New Zealand) is pleased to announce a new support package for PACER Plus' Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme and the PACER Plus Implementation Unit for 2025-2030.

#### *Bilateral*

- Australia is proud to be Solomon Islands' number one (numbawan) bilateral development partner.
- Australia is supporting Solomon Islands' prosperity by
  - strengthening skills so Solomon Islanders can get jobs at home and abroad
  - and partnering with the private sector, including in agribusiness and tourism, to help them grow so they can employ more people and pay higher incomes, building the infrastructure needed for growth.
- Australia and Solomon Islands are committed to ending violence against women and girls – we stand with you during the 16 Days of Activism.

S47E(d)


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## MEDIA PLAN

### VISIT BY SENATOR THE HON NITA GREEN, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS TO HONIARA, 26-28 NOVEMBER 2025

#### POST MEDIA OFFICER

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Counsellor (Strategic Communications)

Australian High Commission, Honiara

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#### OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

S22(1)(a)(ii)

Strategic Communications Section

Australian High Commission, Honiara

Direct line: S22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile: S22(1)(a)(ii)

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

### TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER (HONIARA)

Local Time	Tuesday 24 June	Details	Logistics
1600 (1600 AEST)	Local media release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local media release outlining visit to Solomon Islands echoing AMPIA pre-departure media release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>

### WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER (HONIARA)

Local Time	Wednesday 26 Nov	Details	Logistics
1000 (1000 AEST)	Pre-departure media release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMPIA media release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
1415 (1415 AEST)	AM arrival in Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AM to be greeted by HOM and SIG Minister.</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>Photographs will be taken of AM alighting plane and crossing the tarmac to the VIP lounge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
1605 (1605 AEST)	Meeting with Minister Shanel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S47C</li> <li>No media present</li> <li>Photo opportunity: capture handshake and gift exchange at beginning of meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>

## THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER (HONIARA)

Local Time	Thursday 27 Nov	Details	Logistics
0830 (0830AEST)	<p>Opening of 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting with a cultural welcome</p> <p><i>Venue: Forum Fisheries Agency</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local media will be invited by local government</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>PPIU to organise media arrangements (photo/video)</li> <li>Minister to observe/participate in cultural welcome</li> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
1030 (1030 AEST)	Joint Media Release: Australia and New Zealand to increase support for PACER Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Media Release with NZ Minister Grigg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
0930-1030 (0930-1030 AEST)	Ministerial National Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each countries minister to deliver National Statements</li> <li>S47C</li> <li></li> <li>Photo opportunity: AM delivering National Statement</li> </ul>	
1400 – 1430 (TBC)  (1600-1630 AEST - TBC)	<p>Signing ceremony between Ministers and representatives on renewing support for PACER Plus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S47C</li> <li>Photo opportunity: AMPIA stepping up to sign document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>

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**Venue:** *Forum Fisheries Agency*

- Photo opportunity: joint photo between Ministers that signed the document.

- S22(1)(a)(ii)
-

## FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER (HONIARA)

Local Time	Friday 28 Nov	Details	Logistics
0830-0930  (AEST 0830-0930)	<b>Women of influence breakfast</b>  <b>Venue:</b> GG's Restaurant, Heritage Park Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media will be present</li> <li>Post photographer present</li> <li>Post videographer will be present</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>Speaking order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Public Service, Hon. Francis Sade remarks</li> <li>Panel discussion</li> <li>Group photo (inc Assistant Minister Green) for Women of Influence series launch</li> <li>IPAM Director, Solomon Manea</li> <li>Assistant Minister Green remarks</li> <li>Closing statement by Minister for Women, Hon. Cathy Nori</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
0950-1030  (AEST 0950-1030)	<b>Launch of Pacific Strong: Assisting to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PAVE)</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Gallery 2, Heritage Park Hotel (upstairs from GG's Restaurant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AM will meet with sisters that run Christian Care Community Centre and Family Support Centre to launch new funding and cake cutting</li> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media will be present</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>Speaking order:</li> <li>AM Green</li> <li>Lorio Sisiolo, Centre Manager, Family Support Centre               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Florence Taro Centre Manager, Christian Care Centre</li> </ul> </li> <li>S47C</li> </ul>	
1015-1100  (AEST 1015-1100)	Launch of Pacific Australia Skills (PAS) program in Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location is the Rural Training Centre, Kwaimani Building</li> <li>Media will be present</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>Photo opportunities: AM interacting with trainees demonstrating skills</li> <li>S47C</li> <li>Minister Leokana</li> <li>AM Green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>
1230-1330  (AEST 1230-1330)	Lunch with local tourism operators  <i>Venue: Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>

	<p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaking order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minister of Culture and Tourism</li> <li>○ AM Green</li> </ul> </li> <li>• S47C [REDACTED]</li> <li>• Official photographer present</li> </ul>	<p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>1330-1400</p> <p>(AEST 1330-1400)</p> <p><b>Media Doorstop</b> (begins at 1345)</p> <p><b>Venue: Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media will have the opportunity to ask questions about the AM's visit</li> <li>• S22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]</li> </ul>

## INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIA IN COUNTRY

S47C

S47C

There are two newspapers in Solomon Islands: Solomon Star and The Island Sun. S47C

. There are four main radio stations: Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), ZFM, Barava FM, and PAOA FM. SIBC is a state-owned enterprise and has the widest reach across Solomon Islands provinces. SIBC works with the ABC under the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme.

Four media outlets maintain a website/social media presence only: Tavuli News, Solomon Business Magazine, In-depth Solomon Islands, and Sunday Isles Online.

There is one ABC journalist in country who is in regular contact with Canberra and usually joins the AHC media bus for ministerial visits.

S47C A significant proportion of the media sector have undertaken training or International Media Visits in Australia. S47C

There are no particular cultural practices to be aware of when engaging local journalists. S47C



## MEDIA LIST

Media outlet	Name	Mobile	Email	Status
<i>Australian correspondents in-country</i>				
ABC local correspondent	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
<i>Local media</i>				
Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Star Newspaper	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Star Newspaper	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
The Island Sun Newspaper	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Tavuli News	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
In-depth Solomons (online, investigative reporting)	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
Solomon Business Magazine (online only)	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)
ZFM	S22(1)(a)(ii)			(Capital based)

ZFM	S22(1)(a)(ii)	(Capital based)
YUMI TOKTOK FORUM (online Facebook group)	S22(1)(a)(ii)	(Capital based)
Barava FM	S22(1)(a)(ii)	(Capital based)
Sunday Isles Media	S22(1)(a)(ii)	(Capital based)

S47E(d)

S22(1)(a)(ii)



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**SENATOR THE HON NITA GREEN**  
**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS**  
**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR TOURISM**  
**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

PRE-DEPARTURE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT TO:

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025

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## TRAVELLING DELEGATION

### Senator the Hon Nita Green

Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs

Assistant Minister for Tourism

Assistant Minister for Northern Australia

S22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser for Senator Green

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Assistant Director

Regional Trade and Private Sector Section

Mob: S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:S22(1)(a)@dfat.gov.au)

## TIME DIFFERENCES

From Canberra	
Brisbane	1 hour behind
Honiara	No change
Cairns	1 hour behind

## ITINERARY

Local Time	Wednesday 26 November	Canberra Time
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S22(1)(a)(ii)

1415	Arrive Honiara (Henderson) International Airport	1415
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Local Time	Friday 28 November	Canberra Time
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1535	Depart Honiara S22(1)(a)(ii)	1535
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S22(1)(a)(ii)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS

	Y or N	Details of requirement	Advice for Minister or Minister's Office
Entry requirements for: <b>Solomon Islands</b>	Y	Visa on arrival. Post will facilitate with Solomon Islands Government.	Post has already received the passport biometric pages for the travelling party.

## PROGRAM

Wednesday 26 November

Local Time		Canberra Time
S22(1)(a)(ii)		
1415	<p><b>Arrive Honiara, Solomon Islands</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Business attire</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- H. E. Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands</li><li>- TBC SIG representation</li></ul> <p>S22(1) (a)(ii)</p>	1415
1430-1500	<p><b>Transfer to Australian High Commission</b></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AUS1: AM Green, H.E. Hilton</li><li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Cameron Darragh (Minister Counsellor – Political, Visit Coordinator)</li></ul>	1430-1500



Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary, Visit Liaison Officer), S22(1)(a)(ii) (SIG MFAET Liaison Officer), S22(1)(a)(ii) (photographer)</li> </ul>	
1500-1555	<p><b>Briefing with Australia's High Commissioner and senior executive</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> RAMSI Room, Australian High Commission–Chancery</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Business attire</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deputy High Commissioner Andrew Schloeffel</li> </ul> <p><u>Attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- Mr Darragh</li> <li>- Mr Andrew Cumpston (S22(1)(a)(ii) Assistant Secretary Economic and Trade Branch)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1500-1555
1555-1600	<p><i>Transfer to bilateral meeting</i></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: Mr Cumpston, S22(1)(a)</li> </ul>	1555-1600
1600-1630	<p><b>Bilateral meeting with Hon Peter Shanel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (TBC)</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Business attire</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Counsellor–Political)</li> </ul> <p><u>Host country attendees (TBC):</u></p>	1600-1630

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade</li> <li>- TBC SIG officials</li> </ul> <p><u>Australian attendees (TBC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- Mr Cumpston</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p><u>Details:</u> S22(1)(a)(ii) (Second Secretary) provide additional logistical support.</p> <p><u>Gift:</u> Indigenous print</p>	
1630-1635	<p>Transfer to Heritage Park</p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1630-1635
1635-1800	<p>Check-in/ refresh/ Canberra based business/ personal calls</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara</p>	1635-1800
1800-1810	<p>Transfer to HOMRES</p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1800-1810
1810-2030	<p>Dinner: BBQ with small group of Ministers</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> HOMRES</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Tropical formal</p> <p><u>Met by:</u> H.E Hilton</p> <p><u>Host country attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Culture/Tourism Choylin Douglas</li> </ul>	1810-2030

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for National Planning and Development Coordination Trevor Mahaga</li> <li>- Minister for Public Service Francis Sade</li> <li>- Minister Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori</li> <li>- Minister for Rural Development Danny Waneoroa Minister for Education Tozen Leokana</li> <li>- Minister for Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs John Tuhaika Jr.</li> <li>- Minister for Infrastructure Development Ricky Fuo'o</li> </ul>	
	<u>Australian attendees:</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- Mr Darragh S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	
	S22(1)(a)(ii)	
2030-2040	Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel	2030-2040
	<u>Car arrangements:</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Darragh</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	
	End of official engagements	

## Thursday 27 November

Local Time		Canberra Time
S22(1)(a) (ii)		
0725-0730	Transfer to Australian High Commission–Annex  S22(1) (a)(ii)	0725-0730
0730-0740	<b>Pre-Briefing from DFAT on PACER Plus</b> <u>Venue:</u> Australian High Commission–Annex <u>Attire:</u> Official PACER Plus shirt <u>Details:</u> Briefing from DFAT officials ahead of PACER Plus <u>Attendees:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Andrew Cumpston (Canberra-based; Assistant Secretary Economic and Trade Branch)</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (S22(1)(a)(ii) ; Senior Policy Officer)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)</li> </ul>	0730-0740
0740-0815	<b>Informal Breakfast and PACER Plus Strategy Discussion with New Zealand Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs</b> <u>Venue:</u> Australian High Commission–Annex <u>Attire:</u> Official PACER Plus shirt <u>Australian attendees (TBC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Cumpston</li> </ul>	0740-0815

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p><u>New Zealand attendees (TBC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs</li> <li>- TBC NZ officials</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	
0815-0830	<p><i>Transfer to Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)</i></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Cumpston</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) H. E. Hilton or Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	0815-0830
0830-1030	<p><b>Opening of 2025 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Conference Centre</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Official PACER Plus shirt</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TBC</li> </ul> <p><u>Attendees:</u> AM Green, H. E. Hilton or Mr Schloeffel (TBC), S2 Mr Cumpston, S22(1)(a)(ii) (Second Secretary)</p>	0830-1030
1030-1045	<p><i>Morning Tea</i></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> FFA Conference Centre</p>	1030-1045
1045-1200	<p><b>PACER Plus Ministers Meeting – morning session</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre</p> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1045-1200
1200-1330	<i>Lunch</i>	1200-1330

Local Time		Canberra Time
1330-1615	<b>PACER Plus Ministers Meeting – afternoon session</b> <u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre <u>Details:</u> Possible signing ceremony with photo opportunity (TBC)	1330-1615
1615-1630	Afternoon Tea <u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre	1615-1630
1630-1635	<b>Adoption of communique and conclusion of PACER Plus Ministers Meeting</b> <u>Venue:</u> FFA conference centre	1630-1635
1635-1650	Transfer to Heritage Park Hotel <u>Car arrangements:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, Mr Cumpston</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) , H. E Hilton or Mr Schloeffel (TBC)</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1635-1650
1650-1830	Refresh and opportunities for Canberra business and/or media	1650-1830
1830-2030	<b>PACER Plus dinner reception</b> <u>Venue:</u> Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel <u>Attire:</u> Pacific formal <u>Key attendees:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM Green</li> <li>- Mr Cumpston</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> S47C	1830-2030
	End of official engagements	



## Friday 28 November

Local Time		Canberra Time
S22(1)(a) (ii)		
0820-0945	<p><b>Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Women of Influence' series breakfast</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> GGs restaurant, Heritage Park</p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <p><u>Host country attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori</li> <li>- Minister for Public Service Francis Sade</li> </ul> <p><u>Australian attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><u>Attire:</u> Business casual for the day's engagements</p>	0820-0945
0945	<p><b>Transfer to Heritage Park Gallery</b></p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	0945

Local Time		Canberra Time
0945-1015	<p><b>Launch AUD2.5 million funding for Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PAVE)</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> <i>Heritage Park Gallery</i></p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Counsellor–Human Development)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs Cathy Nori</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	0945-1015
1015-1050	<p><i>Refresh and departure from Heritage Park</i></p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H. E Hilton</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1015-1050
1050-1100	<p><i>Transfer to Kwaimani Building</i></p> <p><u>Car arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1050-1100
1100-1150	<p><b>Launch of Pacific Australia Skills (PAS) in Solomon Islands</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> <i>Skills training classroom, Kwaimani Building</i></p> <p><u>Met by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (Second Secretary)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Leokana</li> </ul> <p>S22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	1100-1150
1150-1220	<b>Media doorstep</b>	1150-1220



Local Time		Canberra Time
	<u>Venue:</u> Kwaimani Building, Room One S22(1)(a)(ii)	
1220-1250	Transfer to Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm <u>Car arrangements:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel,</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul> S22(1)(a)(ii)	1220-1250
1250-1400	<b>Lunch with local tourism operators</b> <u>Venue:</u> Amazing Grace Boutique Cocoa Farm (Kaviki Beach) <u>Met by:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S22(1)(a)(ii) (First Secretary)</li> </ul> <u>Key attendees:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Douglas</li> <li>- Ms Grace Fekau, Owner of Amazing Grace</li> </ul> S22(1)(a)(ii)	1250-1400
1400-1415	Transfer to Honiara airport <u>Car arrangements:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AUS1: AM Green, H. E. Hilton</li> <li>- AUS2: S22(1)(a)(ii) Mr Schloeffel</li> <li>- AUS3: S22(1)(a)(ii)</li> </ul>	1400-1415
1415-1515	<b>Informal engagement with other departing ministers</b> <u>Venue:</u> VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport <u>Key attendees:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon Fata Ryan Schuster, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour, Samoa</li> <li>- Hon Kapelieli Lanumata, Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Tonga</li> </ul>	1415-1515

Local Time		Canberra Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Hon Tingika Elikana, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands</i></li> <li>- <i>Hon Crossley Tatui, Minister for Finance and Infrastructure, Niue</i></li> <li>- <i>Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, New Zealand</i></li> </ul>	
1535	<p><b>Depart Honiara S22(1)(a)</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> <i>VIP Lounge, Honiara International airport</i></p> <p><u>Farewelled by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>H. E. Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands</i></li> <li>- <i>TBC SIG representation</i></li> </ul> <p><b>S22(1)(a)(ii)</b></p>	1535
S22(1)(a)(ii)	<p><i>End of program</i></p>	

## INFORMATION FOR HONIARA

### Accommodation

#### Heritage Park Hotel (for Minister and travelling party)

Mendana Avenue, Honiara

Tel: +677 45500

### Post visit coordinator

Mr Cameron Darragh

Minister Counsellor / Visit Coordinator

Mob: S22(1)(a)(ii)

Tel: S22(1)(a)(ii)

[Cameron.Darragh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Cameron.Darragh@dfat.gov.au)

### Post visit liaison officer

S22(1)(a)(ii)

First Secretary - Economic

Mob: S22(1)(a)(ii)

Tel: S22(1)(a)(ii)

S22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)

### Health Advice

Mosquito-borne diseases are prevalent in Solomon Islands. Malaria and dengue are widespread across Solomon Islands. Zika virus and chikungunya are also present. Use of prophylaxis, repellents, and covering clothes is recommended.

Fatal outbreaks of rotavirus have occurred. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after going to the toilet and before preparing or eating food. Tap water is not recommended for consumption. Bottled water will be provided.

### Weather and Dress Requirements

The Solomon Islands is hot and humid all year round, with an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. There are two distinct seasons – a wet season from November to April and a dry season from May to October. Honiara has a marked wet season when on average almost 70% of the yearly total rain falls. In the dry season, on average about 100 mm falls per month compared to upwards of 300 mm in wet season months. The Ultraviolet Index for Honiara is generally very high during daylight hours peaking around midday.

Solomon Island dress for official engagements is business attire. Tropical Formal, meaning fabric with bright patterns, is worn at formal engagements and dinners. Attire for the Pacific Islands Forum meetings is listed as Tropic Formal. Light cotton or linen materials are suggested. For women, Post recommends conservative cuts. Long pants are also appropriate. Post recommends sturdy, flat (or low-heeled) shoes.

## Cultural Etiquette

Solomon Islands is a conservative and highly religious society. Communities generally abide by patrilineal power structures, whereby women are expected to perform traditional roles. Men may avoid prolonged eye contact with women as a sign of respect.

Over 92 per cent of the population identify as Christian. Prayers are undertaken at the beginning of most official gatherings. Homosexuality is not legal or widely accepted in the community.

Shaking hands and exchanging gifts in ceremonies and official meetings is common. Unlike other Pacific cultures, there is generally no ceremonial ritual (such as kava serving) at the start of a meeting.

English is the official language, but Solomons' Pijin is most spoken. It is common for conversations to move at a more measured pace when compared with Australia, and for a moment or two of silence to pass as the interlocutor considers their response. It is recommended to allow this silence. A modest degree of small-talk, comparable to that used in Australia, is desirable. Using local languages is well received. Some common phrases include:

<b><i>Greeting</i></b>	<i>Gudfala [good-fal-ah] Morning / Afternoon / Evening</i>
<b><i>Thank you</i></b>	<i>Tagio tumas [targ-ee-oh too-mas]</i>
<b><i>Goodbye</i></b>	<i>Lukem iu [look-em you]</i>

## COMMUNICATIONS FOR HONIARA

All communications and document liaison for the attention of the party should be copied to:

**S22(1)(a)(ii)**

Second Secretary Corporate / Post Systems Administrator

Mob: **S22(1)(a)(ii)**

Tel: **S22(1)(a)(ii)**

**S22(1)(a)(ii)** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:____@dfat.gov.au)

**S22(1)(a)(ii)**

Counsellor Corporate / Senior Administrative Officer

Mob: **S22(1)(a)(ii)**

Tel: **S22(1)(a)(ii)**

**S22(1)(a)(ii)** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:____@dfat.gov.au)

**Secure fax/phone:** Please contact **S22(1)(a)(ii)** for details.

**Daily media round-up** should be sent to **S22(1)(a)(ii)** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:____@dfat.gov.au) and **S22(1)(a)(ii)** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:____@dfat.gov.au)

Post will provide the daily local newspapers.

## Mobile and Wi-Fi Access

**S47E(d)**

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR HONIARA

### Australian High Commission Honiara

Corner of Hibiscus Avenue and Mud Alley, Honiara

Tel: +677 21561 / 1300 555 135

Fax: +677 23691

#### H.E. Rod Hilton

High Commissioner

Mob: S22(1)(a)(ii)

Tel: S22(1)(a)(ii)

[Rod.Hilton@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Rod.Hilton@dfat.gov.au)

#### Mr Andrew Schloeffel

Deputy High Commissioner

Mob: S22(1)(a)(ii)

Tel: S22(1)(a)(ii)

[Andrew.Schloeffel@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Schloeffel@dfat.gov.au)

#### Mr Cameron Darragh

Minister-Counsellor / Visit Coordinator

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First Secretary Economic / Visit Liaison Officer

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Security Officer

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Second Secretary / Deputy Visit Liaison Officer

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