



KINGDOM OF TONGA - AUSTRALIA: KAUME'A OFI

Statement of Intent

1. On the auspicious occasion of His Majesty, King Tupou VI's visit to Australia, the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and Government of Australia announce a shared commitment to elevate the relationship of our two nations.
2. Drawing on our already close partnership, the elevation will be captured in a comprehensive and enduring agreement named "*Kaume'a Ofi*" meaning close friendship. *Kaume'a Ofi* signifies warmth, trust, shared values, mutual respect, and reliable support for one another.
3. We acknowledge threats and challenges that face our nations have evolved and multiplied. From climate change to strategic competition, from transnational crime to cyber attacks, from natural disasters to conflict - our world has become increasingly dangerous and uncertain.
4. Peace, prosperity and stability cannot be taken for granted. It has to be built, given strong and enduring foundations, protected and nurtured.
5. The Kingdom of Tonga and Australia hold to the common understanding that we achieve far more together than we do alone. We choose each other in the spirit of *kaungame'a falala'anga* or trusted partnership.
6. We choose each other because we share a region, an ocean and more than 200 years of partnership – our people, culture and future is interconnected. We share a vision for a world that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, where our people can live free, healthy and productive lives.
7. Joining together is not expedient, short term or transactional. It is our duty. We are two independent, sovereign and compassionate nations. We have outward-looking populations, active diplomats and defence forces. As founding members of the Pacific Islands Forum, we do not shy from responsibility for collective security, prosperity and sovereignty.

8. We commit to a durable and balanced *Kaume'a Ofi* agreement, that puts our bilateral relationship on a new trajectory and has a transformational impact on our economies, security and peoples, maximising opportunities for the next generation while preserving our historic cultures.
9. *Kaume'a Ofi* will be grounded in Tonga's four pillars of mutual respect (faka'apa'apa); sharing and mutual obligations (feveitokai'aki); humility and generosity (loto tō) and loyalty and commitment (tauhi vaha'a) and Australian values of egalitarianism, freedom and compassion.
10. The *Kaume'a Ofi* agreement will embody regionalism, including shared purpose, collective action and a Pacific family first approach to peace and security. It will help write the next chapter of regional integration.
11. The Kingdom of Tonga and Australia issue this statement of intent as a demonstration of our deep commitment to our bilateral partnership and to building a brighter future for Tongans and Australians for generations to come.

Signed in Canberra on 19 September 2025.

For the Government of Tonga

For the Government of Australia



H.E. Curtis Tu'ihalangie
Acting Tongan High Commissioner to
Australia



H.E. Brek Batley
Australian High Commissioner to the
Kingdom of Tonga