

# NINTH PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER MINISTERS FORUM

Honiara, Solomon Islands

25–26 August 2025

## Communiqué

The Ninth Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministerial (PWWM) Forum was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 25–26 August 2025 and was attended by Ministers and Ministerial representatives of American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Republic of Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Republic of Vanuatu. The Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) and the Pacific Community (SPC), supported as the Secretariat for the Forum, with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, development partners from Asia Development Bank, World Bank, Australia (DFAT) and New Zealand (MFAT) in attendance. The Ministerial Retreat was held on 25 August and the Ministers Meeting on 26 August 2025 in Honiara.

2. Ministers **expressed** deep gratitude to the Government and people of Solomon Islands for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to all delegations during their stay in Honiara.

### WATER AND WASTEWATER FOR ALL

3. Ministers **commended** the Ninth PWWM Forum theme “Water and Wastewater For All – connecting peoples, policies, communities for a shared sustainable future” and acknowledged that water and wastewater management are cross-cutting issues central to life, human security, public health, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, education, prosperity, and the protection of Pacific cultures, environments, and natural resources. Ministers **stressed** the necessity of resilient and reliable water and wastewater systems to achieve dignity and economic opportunity through education, health, and development targets.

### THE ROLE OF WATER AND SANITATION IN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

4. Ministers **reaffirmed** that access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation is fundamental to the wellbeing of Pacific peoples, the resilience of communities, and the achievement of sustainable development.
5. Ministers **strongly expressed** that water security including wastewater management are essential to climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, human health, food and energy security, prosperity and the protection of Pacific ecosystems and called for increased development partner support.
6. Ministers **highlighted** the urgent need to elevate water and wastewater priorities within the regional agenda, including through strengthened links to Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) processes, to ensure sustained political commitment and action. Ministers **agreed** that water is not only an economic issue but a matter of security and a fundamental human right.

## **ELEVATING WATER AND WASTEWATER THROUGH PIF PROCESSES**

7. Ministers **emphasised** the role of PWWM Forum in informing Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and processes on water and wastewater priorities, challenges, and needs, further **supporting** the importance of raising water visibility at the highest political levels, including systematic reporting to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders.
8. Ministers **recognised** the need for all Pacific Island Leaders to champion water security at national, regional, and global levels, and encouraged Ministers to work with their Heads of Government to ensure water is prioritised in PIF Leaders' deliberations, commencing at the PIFLM in Honiara.

## **STRENGTHENING PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES**

9. Ministers **acknowledged** the importance of Pacific Water and Wastewater Utilities in providing essential services to Pacific communities and supported continued efforts by PWWA to strengthen utility performance through benchmarking, peer learning and national and regional collaboration.
10. Ministers **stressed** the need for good governance and infrastructure systems to address the needs for community expectations to change the unsustainable status quo of water and wastewater services. Ministers **further emphasized** the interconnected nature of water security and inherent complexities of Pacific small island developing states that require innovative funding, technological solutions, mechanisms and development partners to build infrastructure with development assistance for sustainable outcomes.

## **PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING SDG 6**

11. Ministers **considered** the report on Pacific progress towards SDG 6 and expressed great concern that 9 million people in the Pacific lack access to basic sanitation and 5 million lack access to basic water. Ministers **urged** renewed regional solidarity and targeted national action, emphasising the importance of learning from each other's experiences, including strong commitment to sustainable water management, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts among government, civil society, local communities, and the private sector.

## **WATER RESOURCE SECURITY FOR RESILIENCE**

12. Ministers **stressed** the varying nature of challenges across Pacific Islands including the unique and significant challenges faced by atoll and low-lying communities reliant on rainwater and shallow aquifers and the value of sharing locally developed solutions through sustained communities of practice such as the Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security.
13. Ministers **stressed** that the Pacific is disproportionately affected by the water and wastewater related impacts of climate extremes, with climate change expected to significantly increase the likelihood of hydro-meteorological disasters, such as flooding and droughts that already account for over 75% of the regions reported natural disaster events.
14. Ministers **noted** the critical importance of national hydrological services in enabling evidence-based decision making for sustainable water resources management, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation and welcome the development of a regional hydrology strategy to identify and address urgent national capacity needs.
15. Ministers **further emphasized** the fundamental role of water in peace and security, building Pacific resilience and called for prioritization and deeper integration of water and sanitation into national development plans, climate

change strategies, and disaster preparedness frameworks, 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent Implementation Plan and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and its Action Plan.

16. Ministers **emphasized** the urgency for resilient and inclusive solutions reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation, capacity building, and innovation, calling for collective action to ensure no Pacific Island is left behind in achieving sustainable water and wastewater services.

## REGIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE

17. Ministers **noted** the development of the draft Terms of Reference to guide governance, operations and responsibilities of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministers Forum for the duration 2026 – 2030; and **agreed** to the finalisation of these Terms of Reference through a process of out of session consideration and endorsement by Senior Officials nominated by Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministers.
18. Ministers **further agreed** that operational details of the PWWM Forum, including frequency of meetings and terminologies would be the subject of discussion at the 10<sup>th</sup> PWWM Forum.

### *Pacific Water Security Warriors Mechanism*

19. Ministers **recognised** the outgoing, current, and incoming PWWM Chairs as champions of the Pacific Water Security Warriors Mechanism and support renewed efforts to elevate Pacific voices on water security, including through strengthened integration of water security in Pacific Islands Forum processes and Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) engagement at the UN and other global forums.
20. Ministers **tasked** the Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the PWWA Secretariat and the PRP Water Security Technical Working Group, to scope, design and develop a work programme to build a new generation of Pacific Water Security Warriors, including resource mobilisation, and to report progress to the 10<sup>th</sup> PWWM Forum.

## FINANCING WATER

21. Ministers **welcomed** updates on the status and trends in sector financing, including regional and bilateral development assistance, sector-based financing instruments, and climate and disaster financing mechanisms. Ministers **emphasized** the importance of increased access to sustainable financing, including through the Green Climate Fund, World Bank, ADB, Australia, New Zealand and other partners. Ministers **noted** the importance of affordability, maintenance of infrastructure, and financing solutions tailored to the different scales and needs of Pacific Islands.

### *Regional Capacity Development Programmes*

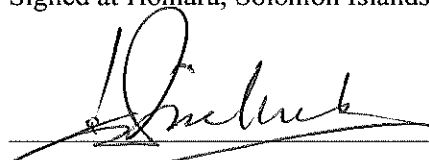
22. Ministers **noted** the establishment of the Pacific Water Academy based in Fiji to support the capacity of water and wastewater operators and structured trainings for Pacific officials including the ongoing Pacific Young Water Professionals Program to build sector-wide capacity, strengthen technical expertise, and support knowledge sharing across Pacific Islands.

23. Ministers **recognised** the ongoing Pacific Young Water Professionals Program and emphasized the critical role of young people in the future of Pacific water and wastewater management.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND WAY FORWARD**

24. Ministers **strongly emphasized** commitment, collaboration and championing water issues, through urgent action to advance Water Security and SDG 6 in PIF Leaders processes.
25. Ministers **reaffirmed** shared commitment to working with Pacific communities, CROP organisations, and development partners to ensure safe, reliable, and resilient water and sanitation services. Ministers **called** for stronger commitment of partner support to national and regional frameworks to maximise impact and deliver coordinated support that meets the priorities of Pacific Islands on water security. Ministers **agreed** for the 2026 PWWM Forum to include regional preparations for the UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
26. Ministers **acknowledged** the role of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) in supporting coordination, technical expertise, and regional engagement, and encouraged the progress of regional arrangements for the PWWM convening through Members.
27. Ministers **agreed** to convene the Tenth PWWM Forum in 2026 in French Polynesia and requested the Secretariat to work closely with members and partners to progress the outcomes of this Forum, and to prepare a comprehensive update for consideration at the next meeting.

Signed at Honiara, Solomon Islands this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025

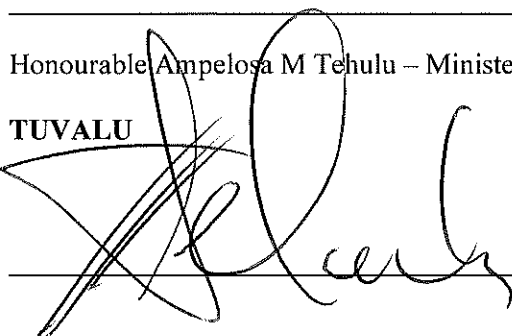


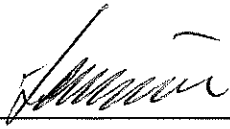
Honourable Albert Nicholas – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure Cook Islands, Business Trade Investment Board, National Environment Services, Cook Islands Investment Corporation and Ministry of Transport

#### **COOK ISLANDS**

Honourable Ampelosa M Tehulu – Minister of Public Works, Infrastructure Development and Water

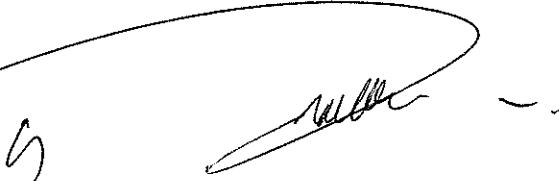
**TUVALU**





Honourable Tekeewa Tarati – Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy

**KIRIBATI**



Honourable Rick Tchamako Mahe – Minister of Lands and Natural Resources

**VANUATU**



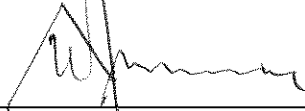
Honourable Paula Piveni Piukala – Minister of Public Enterprises, Police, Fire Emergency Services

**TONGA**



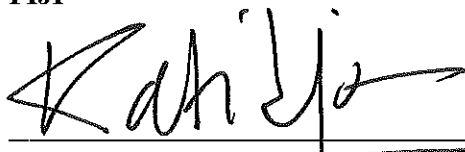
Honourable Derrick Rawcliffe Manuari – Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**



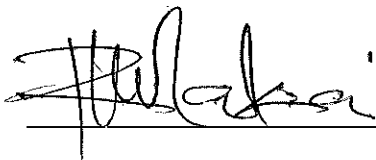
Honourable Naisa Tuinaceva – Assistant Minister of Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services

**FIJI**



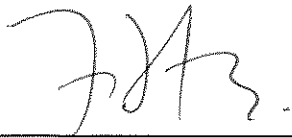
Honourable Jeremie Katidjo Monnier – Member of the Government of New Caledonia in charge of Ecological Transition and Climate Change

**NEW CALEDONIA**



Honourable Ricky Makani - Assistant Minister for Infrastructure

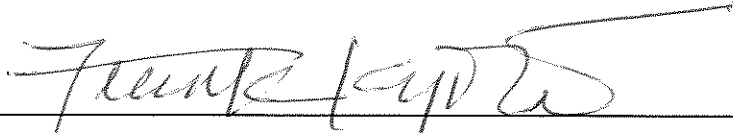
**NIUE**



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Fuimaono Domonic F Schwalger – Managing Director Samoa Water Authority

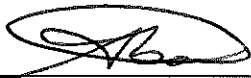
**SAMOA**



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Mr. Frank Kyota – CEO Palau Public Utilities Corporation

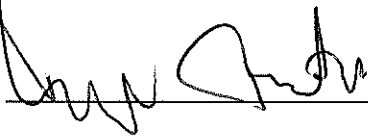
**PALAU**



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Mr. Abraham Aremwa, Chairman and CEO, Nauru Utilities Corporation

**NAURU**



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Mr. Ryan Tuato'o – American Samoa Power Authority

**AMERICAN SAMOA**



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Mr. Billy Imar – Board Director Water PNG

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

*Pacific Water Wastewater Ministers Forum*

*August 2025*