



MEDIA RELEASE

New Alliance to Assist Local Communities in the Pacific

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Three leading providers of technical support and capacity building for local government institutions have joined forces to promote urban, rural and outer island development in the Pacific.

Local Government Professionals Australia, Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific Project (CLGF Pacific) and Local Governments for Sustainability, Oceania (ICLEI Oceania) are working together to help Pacific islands adapt to the new multi-dimensional and complex issues they are increasingly facing.

‘The impact that climate change, rapid population growth and urbanisation, and other problems are having on things like governance, planning, basic infrastructure and service provision in the Pacific is unprecedented,’ said Ricki Bruhn, LG Professionals Australia National President.

‘They present significant challenges to governments in the region at both the national and sub-national level,’ he said.

CLGF Pacific Regional Director Karibaiti Taoaba said, ‘Our three organisations have unique and extensive networks and experience in local government, with strong and trusted relationships in the Pacific. This will be vital in building communities that are resilient and sustainable. We look forward to working with our partners to take this agenda forward.’

LG Professionals Australia will be the lead implementing partner, supported by technical assistance from CLGF and ICLEI.

‘There will be no single solution to overcoming these challenges. We will work with communities to respond to the local context, and provide the appropriate assistance, drawing upon ICLEI’s extensive experience worldwide,’ said Steve Gawler, Regional Director ICLEI Oceania.

The alliance will work to contribute to the Australian Government’s aspirations outlined in its 2017 White Paper on Foreign Affairs and Australia’s aid policy framework.

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