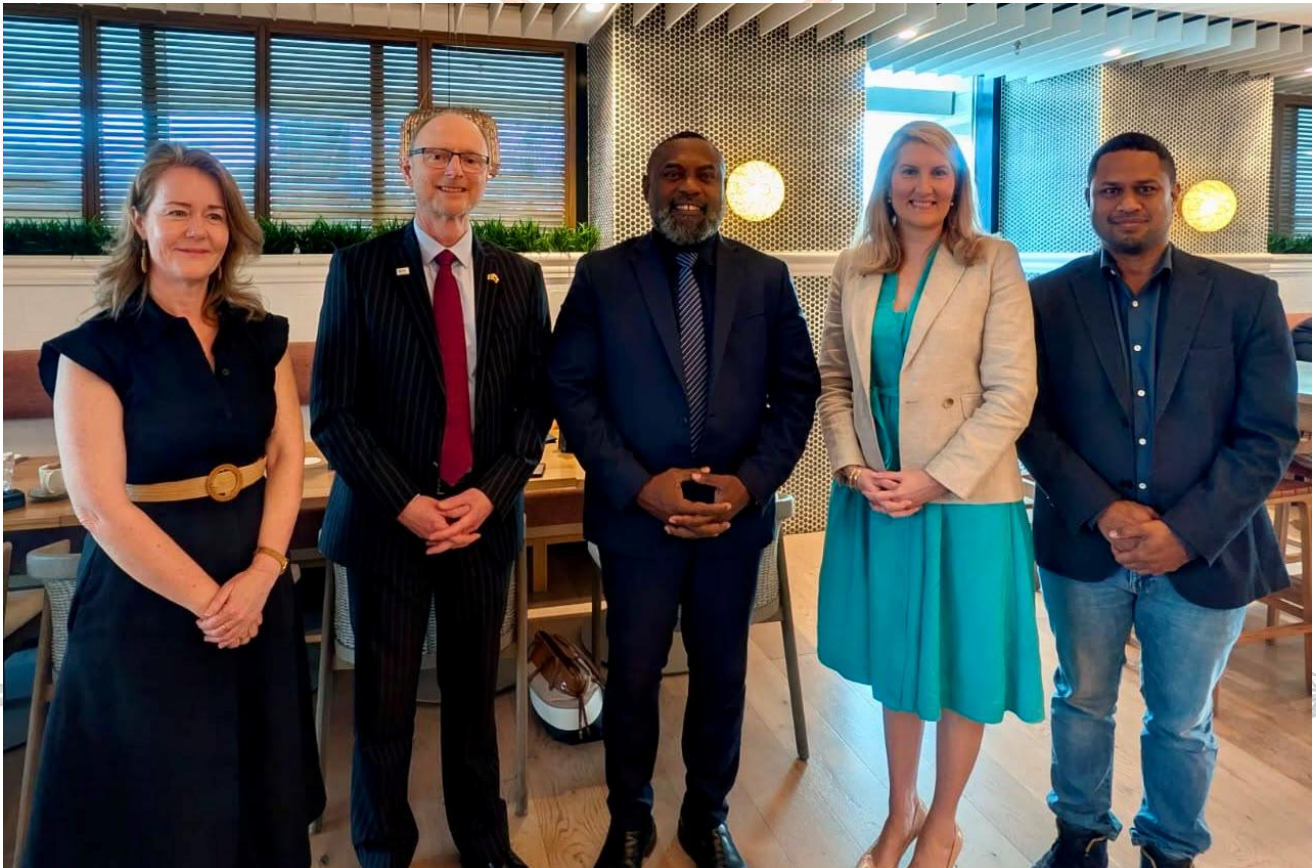


## INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
FOR MEDIA RELEASE  
Port Moresby, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### PROGRESSIVE UPDATE ON PNG AND AUSTRALIA ON STRATEGIC DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP



This morning I met with Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology, Ms Jessica Hunter, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), Mr Jonathan Kenna, and officials from the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review progress on several important initiatives being advanced under the Papua New Guinea–Australia digital partnership.

First, we discussed the development of Pacific Digital and AI Principles, which Papua New Guinea and Australia are seeking to advance with Pacific Islands Forum partners. These principles are intended to promote digital sovereignty, responsible adoption of artificial intelligence, regional resilience, transparency, accountability, and value-for-money digital investments across the Pacific.

Second, we discussed the modernisation of existing PNG–Australia ICT and cyber cooperation arrangements through an updated Memorandum of Understanding. The proposed framework will better reflect current priorities, including secure digital infrastructure, cyber capability development, information sharing, AI governance, online safety, and the protection of critical technology systems.

I also welcomed progress on the proposed Pukpuk Digital Connectivity Initiative, a major undersea cable investment designed to strengthen Papua New Guinea’s international connectivity, improve network resilience, and reduce single points of failure. The proposal includes three new international cable routes serving Northern PNG, Southern PNG and Bougainville, helping to secure our nation’s long-term digital future.

We further discussed progress on the Sevis Data Exchange (SevisDEx), a key component of Papua New Guinea’s Digital Public Infrastructure agenda. I acknowledged Australia’s K5 million support towards the initiative and noted that the Call for Tenders process has now been completed. The project is currently undergoing technical evaluation ahead of contract award. Once implemented, SevisDEx will serve as the secure interoperability platform connecting government systems, registries and digital services, enabling more efficient, secure and citizen-centric digital service delivery across government.

We also reviewed progress on the Telecommunications Blueprint for Papua New Guinea, currently being led by Professor Rod Sims and PNG Special Advisor Mr Jack Tomon. The Blueprint will help identify the reforms, policy settings and priority investments required to expand connectivity, improve affordability, strengthen competition and enhance cyber resilience throughout the telecommunications sector.

Lastly, we discussed preparations for the upcoming Digital Transformation Summit 2026, which Papua New Guinea will host in partnership with Australia. The Summit will build on the success of DTS25, which attracted more than 1,500 participants and established itself as one of the largest digital policy and innovation gatherings ever hosted in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region.

Papua New Guinea’s digital future must be secure, sovereign, inclusive and resilient. I thank Australia for its continued partnership and look forward to advancing these important initiatives for the benefit of our people and the wider Pacific region.

Approved for Release



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ACTING MINISTER