



Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Australian High Commission

Joint Media Release

6 July 2020

Australia delivers Rennell Police Station upgrade

A newly renovated Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIPF) Headquarters at Tigoa means police will have access to better facilities to carry out their duties and serve communities across Rennell and Bellona.

The SBD 980,000 upgrade to the Police Station, Provincial Police Commander (PPC) House and two married quarters was delivered by the Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP).

The renovations comprised new plumbing and electrical works, roofing, kitchen and bathroom fit outs, and new walls and doors. A verandah was built for the married quarters. A septic tank, water tank were delivered to the PPC House and generators were also installed at all houses.

SIPDP advisers worked closely with RSIPF staff throughout the renovation project, helping to develop new trade skills for the Police Infrastructure Department.

Australian High Commissioner Dr Lachlan Strahan and SIPDP Commander Mark Ney travelled to Rennell Island with Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services Karen Galokale, National Security Advisor John Wasi and Deputy Commissioner of RSIPF Juanita Matanga on 30 June to inspect and handover the new buildings.

Dr Strahan said the police headquarters upgrade at Tigoa was a demonstration of Australia's commitment to Solomon Islands' security sector.

“The RSIPF plays such a vital role in maintaining law and order around the country. It can't do this without adequate infrastructure. That's why Australia is helping to upgrade police stations and police accommodation across the provinces. I'm pleased our funding under the SIPDP has made a tangible difference in Tigoa by supporting Commander Eddie Peseika and his team by improving the buildings where they work and live”.

“We have been doing some great work with the RSIPF in Honiara. But it's essential that we also support police officers outside of the national capital. Those working out

in remote areas, like Tigoa, are doing important work keeping local communities safe,” he said.

Speaking at the handover Permanent Secretary Karen Galokale thanked the Australian Government through the SIPDP and emphasized the importance of the housing project.

“The Solomon Islands Government will never stop saying thank you to the people and Government of Australia. It is programs like SIPDP that have the capacity to touch lives, and build community confidence in our system that brings out the true meaning of our relationships”.

“We all know that a disciplined unit is as good as the people that make it, and if we fail to meet the needs of those officers, who am I to call for full respect and commitment, when their basic needs are neglected? Therefore, this housing project is a testament to SIPDP’s support in ensuring that our men and women in uniform are able to continue their service, with the needed housing support service”, said Permanent Secretary Galokale.

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Provincial Police Commander Eddie Peseika, Permanent Secretary Karen Galokale and Australian High Commissioner Dr Lachlan Strahan at one of the refurbished houses



Deputy Commissioner of the RSIPF Juanita Matanga and Australian High Commission Third Secretary Laura Wilson



Officials inspecting one of the refurbished houses



Premier Willie Tuha greets Australian High Commissioner Dr Lachlan Strahan on arrival at Tigoa, Rennell



Premier Willie Tuha, Australian High Commissioner Dr Lachlan Strahan, Commander of the Solomon Islands Police Development Program Mark Ney and National Security Advisor John Wasi in Tigoa