



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

RISING WOMEN DRIVE SOLOMON ISLANDS INFRASTRUCTURE

3 MARCH 2026

Three rising women in infrastructure have joined a cohort of Solomon Islanders undertaking postgraduate studies in Australia to contribute to national development back home.

Soleana Gagahe, Lisa Esibaea and Talei Wore commenced their university studies this month, having worked on Australia's Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program, which delivers major projects around the country.

Ms Gagahe, who is enrolled in a Master of Engineering at the University of NSW, says her studies will strengthen her technical ability and confidence to deliver infrastructure when she returns home.

"Civil engineering focuses on delivering practical, safe and sustainable infrastructure solutions to help improve our communities," Ms Gagahe said.

"This scholarship is equipping me with improved technical and management skills to better support our infrastructure development."

Australia's High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Jeff Roach, said the Australia Awards program is a long-standing investment in Solomon Islands' people and development aspirations.

"Australia Awards is one of our key partnerships with Solomon Islands. It helps build skills, leadership and long-lasting connections between our countries," High Commissioner Roach said.

"By backing these three impressive women, we're helping boost local capability to design, manage and deliver quality infrastructure that meets the social and economic needs of the community."

Mrs. Wore, who works in procurement, plays an important role in ensuring infrastructure projects deliver value for money and create opportunities for local companies and suppliers. She says strong procurement systems ensure public funds are used responsibly and transparently.

“This study opportunity is really helping me strengthen governance and improve project outcomes,” Mrs. Wore said.

The three students reflect the growing number of women entering the male-dominated Solomon Islands infrastructure sector.

As International Women’s Day approaches on Sunday 8 March, their stories highlight the important contribution women make to Solomon Islands’ infrastructure and national development.

ENDS//

Media enquiries: Ms Litonya Shallcross, Australian High Commission, 7737294

PHOTOS:



Photo 1 – Ms Soleana Gagahe, who is enrolled in a Master of Engineering, is focused on delivering practical, safe and economical infrastructure for Solomon Islands communities.

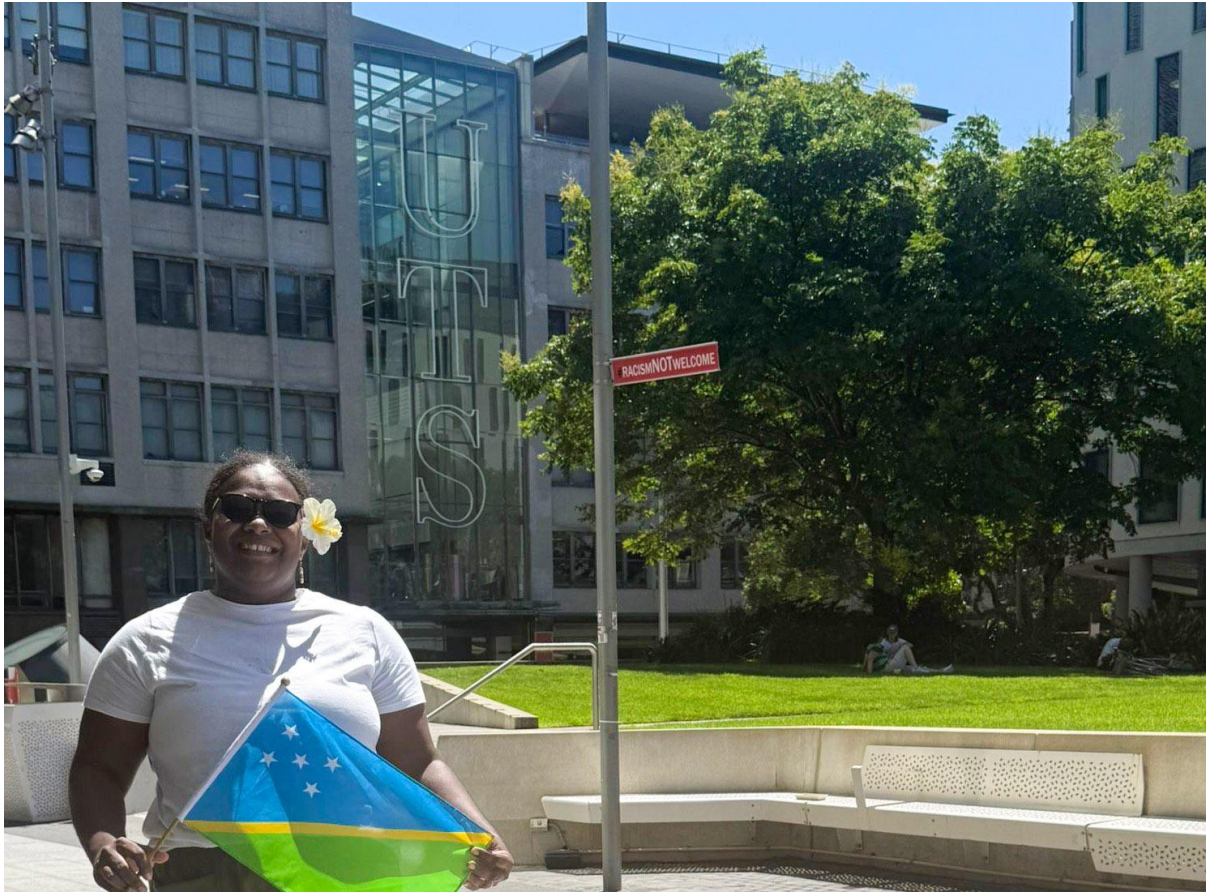


Photo 2 - Procurement Professional, Mrs Talei Wore at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), advancing her studies to further strengthen transparent and accountable infrastructure procurement.