



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA PARTNERS WITH INDIGENOUS SEAWEED BUSINESS IN ISABEL PROVINCE

27 JULY 2026

Australia and Keto Seaweed Farm an indigenous business based in Isabel Province have signed a new partnership to increase seaweed production on Keto Island in Isabel Province. Over the next 12 months, Keto Seaweed Farm will co-invest with Australia to build a new storage shed, procure additional seaweed farming equipment, purchase a new boat and engine, and improve staff accommodation.

Keto Seaweed Farm has been operating for more than five years and has an extensive track record of creating jobs, particularly for women and young people who are involved in the planting, harvesting, drying and processing of seaweed.

Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Andrew Schloeffel, said the Solomon Islands-Australia Partnership is creating more jobs for Solomon Islanders by expanding seaweed farming across the country.

"This partnership is helping the people of Gao and Bugotu earn more income and create better opportunities for their families and communities," Acting High Commissioner Schloeffel said.

"We are working with indigenous businesses like Keto Seaweed Farm across Solomon Islands to expand economic opportunities, boost incomes and generate more jobs."

Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Honourable Polycarp Paea, said seaweed production has significant growth potential in Solomon Islands, supported by increasing global demand and the Government's commitment to developing the sector.

"Investing in production, transport and market access will help build a stronger and more competitive seaweed industry," Minister Paea said.

Ruth Ririana of Keto Seaweed Farm said the partnership would help the business overcome key barriers to growth.

"Keto Seaweed Farm has been operating for more than five years and this investment will help us increase the volume and quality of the seaweed we produce," Ms Ririana said.

"It will also provide more opportunities for women and young people in our community."

Member of Parliament for Gao/Bugotu Constituency, Honourable Trevor Manemahaga, welcomed the new partnership, saying it would support households and communities.

"I am pleased to see this new partnership with an indigenous business in my constituency," Hon. Manemahaga said.

"Expanding seaweed farming will benefit local families and communities by increasing incomes and creating more jobs for Solomon Islanders."

As Solomon Islands' *namabwan* economic partner, Australia is working with indigenous businesses across all sectors of the economy to create more jobs and boost incomes for households and communities.

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Photos & Captions

Photo 1:



Caption 1: Australia's Acting Deputy High Commissioner, Emily Flahive with Hon. Trevor Mahaga, MP for Gao Bugotu, Keto Seaweed Manager, Samuel Meta (centre right) and Francis Pituvaka, Communications Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Photo 2:



Caption 2: Samuel of Keto Seaweed signing the partnership agreement while Emily Flahive (Australia's Acting Deputy High Commissioner) and Hon Trevor Mahaga (MP for Hograno and Gao Bugotu), look on.

Photo 3:



Caption 3: Group photo after the signing of the partnership agreement between Australia and Keto Seaweed.