



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

SOLOMON ISLANDS AND AUSTRALIA ADVANCE POLICE EXPANSION TALKS IN HONIARA

10 APRIL 2026

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Expansion Initiative is moving ahead, after senior officials from Solomon Islands and Australia met in Honiara last month.

The implementation meeting welcomed the progress and momentum on one of the most significant investments in building Solomon Islands' sovereign security capability.

The meeting was co-chaired by Karen Galokale, Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, and Jeff Roach, High Commissioner to Solomon Islands.

Senior Solomon Islands officials, including Acting Police Commissioner Mathias Lenialu and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Melchior Mataki, also attended, as well as Australian senior officials who travelled to Honiara to ensure close coordination is maintained between Solomon Islands and Canberra.

“The security environment and its challenges now require a modern professional and well-resourced police force,” PS Galokale said in her opening remarks.

“This will not simply be about force numbers, but will be about building a capable institution able to meet these challenges.”

PS Galokale also referenced the five pillars of the RSIPF project: national ownership, holistic capability development, sustainability and value for money, partnership and alignment, and institutional resilience.

Australia – as the single largest contributor to Solomon Islands' development and its partner of choice – is supporting Solomon Islands' leadership under the RSIPF

Expansion Initiative to build sovereign policing and security capability, based on an understanding shared between the Prime Ministers of both countries.

The two governments are now negotiating an MOU to guide the Police Academy. Practical work is well underway, including initial design options. A Solomon Islands design team has visited Canberra to take this forward.

Initial planning has also begun for eleven provincial police outposts, a priority raised by Hon Jimson Tanangada, Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services. Prioritisation of these outposts is already complete, with Lambi in Guadalcanal the first to commence.

“We’ve moved quickly in a short space of time - from agreeing on a site for the Academy, to progressing the MOU, to getting early work underway on provincial outposts” High Commissioner Roach said of the meeting.

“That momentum matters. But what matters more is that we keep listening, keep coordinating closely, and keep delivering.”

Participants discussed the next phase of policing infrastructure as part of the Expansion Initiative. Permanent Secretary Galokale provided a concise description of the RSIPF’s infrastructure priorities, with Australia indicating its readiness to support further infrastructure development, including through architectural and technical assistance.

Progress is also being made on enabling and support measures. The Expansion Initiative will include a servicing and maintenance package, including fleet management services. Procurement is also underway for ICT and systems upgrades requested by the Solomon Islands Government for the Police Ministry.

Closing the meeting, co-chairs and participants welcomed the momentum achieved to date and reaffirmed the importance of regular, open dialogue. Officials from both countries acknowledged that sustained communication and close cooperation will be essential to delivering the Expansion Initiative on schedule and to the standard envisioned by leaders.

ENDS///....



Caption 1: Co-chairs PS Galokale and High Commissioner Roach with participants at the RSIPF Expansion Initiative implementation meeting.