



Australian High Commission  
Solomon Islands

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS SEAWEED FARMING IN ONTONG JAVA**

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Australia is helping local communities in Ontong Java in the Malaita Outer Islands to expand into sustainable seaweed farming by partnering with local exporter, Solo Seaweed.

The partnership supports the purchase of seaweed farming materials, including drying nets, plastic film covers, rope and seaweed bags which will be distributed to farmers.

Once fully established, the new production hub is expected to significantly increase seaweed production from the area, contributing to the growth of Solomon Islands' seaweed industry.

Solo Seaweed began engaging communities in Ontong Java in early 2025 and has already established a nursery and partnered with local farmers to expand seaweed farming.

Director of Solo Seaweed, Denis Ngu, welcomed Australia's involvement, saying "The partnership will allow us to provide more farmers with materials and training while building a stable supply chain that benefits both growers and exporters."

For communities in Ontong Java, seaweed farming gives people an opportunity to generate sustainable income.

"Many households rely on the sea for their livelihoods," said Glen Harry Kengalu, Solo Seaweed's representative in Ontong Java.

"This initiative provides a practical way for families to support themselves and improve their living standards."

Australian High Commissioner Jeff Roach said Australia was investing in activities that directly benefited Solomon Islanders and supported national economic priorities.

"The ocean has been an economically vital and culturally significant resource for Solomon Islanders for generations," said High Commissioner Roach.

"Supporting local businesses like Solo Seaweed to expand production and participate in international markets will bring additional economic benefits to rural communities, in line with national priorities."

Vice Chairman of the Malaita Outer Islands Constituency Development Office Edward Limoni also welcomed the initiative, stating the office is supportive of developments to strengthen economic opportunities in the constituency.

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Photo 1



Caption: Bill Rowell, First Secretary, Economic at the Australian High Commission (second from left), with Denis Ngu and Glen Harry Kengalu of Solo Seaweed, and Malaita Outer Islands Constituency Development office reps, Edward Limoni and Philemon Kaola during a photo opportunity to mark the beginning of the partnership.