



JOINT HEADS OF PACIFIC SECURITY

Joint Heads of Pacific Security 2024 – Virtual Meeting

Towards 2025: time to connect, take stock, and set ourselves up for success

Law enforcement, national security, and military leaders, including police, customs, and immigration from across the Pacific, met virtually for the sixth annual Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHoPS) Meeting on 16 August 2024. The meeting was chaired by Australian Border Force Commissioner Michael Outram APM.

Mr James Movick, Director of the Pacific Fusion Centre and Mr Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, briefed the JHoPS community on strategic priorities set by the Pacific Islands Forum and security challenges and trends facing the region, both highlighting Leaders' call for a 'flexible and responsive regional security mechanism'.

Members were briefed by Mr Maara Tetava, National Security Director of Cook Islands, on the work of the JHoPS Intersessional Working Group (IWG) since it was established in August 2023. Members considered a paper setting out 'Elements of a JHoPS Governance Framework' and:

- **endorsed** the elements making up the Governance Framework: a Key Operating Principle, Mission Statement, Strategic Overview and Terms of Reference; and
- **tasked** the IWG to develop a full Governance Framework for consideration and endorsement at the 2025 JHoPS meeting in Papua New Guinea.

Colonel Raphael Yapu, Chief of Staff to acting CDF of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), presented a paper setting out 'Operational requirements for a regional operations deployment framework'. Following a discussion involving heads of military, police, customs and immigration, Members:

- **noted** the paper and **provided** comments on the operational requirements including the need to add provisions on life support arrangements, and clarity around the movement of people, goods, and food in times of disaster – drawing from past experiences; and
- **tasked** the IWG to develop a draft Model Framework as well as guiding principles for the framework, for consideration at the next in-person 2025 JHoPS meeting in Papua New Guinea.

Commodore Philip Polewara, acting CDF of the PNGDF, advised that the next JHoPS meeting would take place at the Hotel Stanley in Port Moresby from 18 – 20 March 2025, the same year Papua New Guinea would celebrate 50 years of independence. He presented a revised meeting structure outlined in the paper 'JHoPS 2025 Draft Agenda: an evolving vision for JHoPS'.

Following a discussion, Members **endorsed** the change to the JHoPS meeting structure and requested that the 2025 Agenda include a focus on movement of illicit goods across the Pacific. Members **agreed** to provide further comments on the draft agenda to the JHoPS Secretariat.

Members **thanked** Commissioner Outram for chairing the meeting (his last) and for his contributions to JHoPS since the first meeting in 2019. Members **thanked** Papua New Guinea for agreeing to host the 2025 JHoPS in Port Moresby.

Noting the significant work to be progressed in the lead up to 2025, Members **encouraged** interested officials to join the JHoPS IWG by emailing the JHoPS Secretariat at: Jhops.secretariat@defence.gov.au.