

Memorandum of understanding between the capital cities of the Pacific, to establish the Council of Pacific Capital Cities

1. Preamble

Through this memorandum, the following cities commit to build on the groundwork of the Canberra Pacific Forum by establishing an agreement called the 'Council of Pacific Capital Cities' ('Council'). The objective of the Council is to partner with capital cities in the Pacific region to enhance democratic frameworks and cooperate on common causes for the benefit of our respective cities and nations.

2. Vision

The Council of Pacific Capital Cities will aim to foster regional partnerships in the Pacific, and advance common values imperative in the development of people-to-people links and regional cooperation.

3. Membership

Membership of the Council is open to the capital cities of each independent nation in the Pacific region.

Inaugural membership of the Council will include the following cities:

- Canberra, Australia;
- Suva, Fiji; and
- Wellington, New Zealand.

4. Areas of Cooperation

This memorandum is an important vehicle in furthering the region's collective commitment to economic, cultural, and political cooperation.

The following areas for cooperation are proposed, but not limited to:

- climate change;
- sustainable development and city planning;
- economic growth and diversification;
- health and wellbeing;
- innovation;
- art and culture; and
- governance and administration.

5. Channels of Cooperation

The Council will identify activities and determine outcomes within each of the areas of cooperation that will be supported by:

- Joint activity to combat the threat of climate change
- Growing sustainable economies through business-to-business activity
- Research projects between industry and academic institutions
- Joint programs to improve inclusion and equity
- Memorandums of understanding between similar city organisations
- Education exchanges
- Exchanges between the key cultural institutions of each city
- Joint programs to strengthen democratic processes
- Artist exchanges between each city
- Trade missions to each city
- Government and city management staff exchanges

6. Administration

This Memorandum will be a statement of shared values and a practical mechanism for delivering genuine benefits to the signatory Cities. The Memorandum and agreed areas of cooperation will be determined, reviewed, and renewed by the signatories on three-year basis. This will occur through:

- A three-year work plan to address the specific Areas of Cooperation
- Summits of progress, held on a rotating annual basis, with one capital city to host the other capital cities
- Regular virtual meetings between the participating capital cities
- Regular dialogue through trade missions and face-to-face exchanges amongst community, business, and education sectors

7. Assent and Affirmation

By affixing our signatures to this document, we jointly agree to uphold the spirit of this Memorandum and match that spirit with our combined endeavours to benefit our peoples and, in so doing, the Council of Pacific Capital Cities will be an example of what friendship, mutual regard and cooperation can accomplish.

*On behalf of the citizens
of Canberra, Australia*



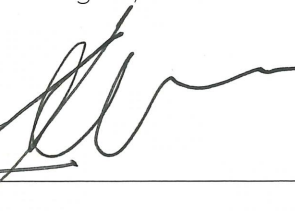
Mr Andrew Barr MLA,
Chief Minister of the
Australian Capital
Territory

*On behalf of the
citizens of Suva, Fiji*



Mr Tevita Boseiwaqa,
Chairman of Suva City
Council, Special
Administrators

*On behalf of the citizens of
Wellington, New Zealand*



Ms Tory Whanau,
Mayor of Wellington