



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION NIUE

GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR WATER AND SANITATION
DURING CONSTITUTION DAY FLAG RAISING**

The Hon Dalton Tagelagi, Premier of Niue, welcomed Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Niue. Minister Wong's visit was timed to coincide with Constitution Day celebrations.

Premier Tagelagi welcomed Minister Wong as Australia's representative to observe and celebrate Niue's 48th Constitution Day as part of her visit to the island.

"We are delighted that Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon. Penny Wong is here today to share in Niue's most important day, our Constitution Day, to mark our nation's 48th year of statehood. Australia is an important and dear friend of Niue's in the Pacific and we look forward to continuing our close bonds and harmonious bilateral relationship," said Premier Tagelagi.

In her speech during the Flag Raising event, Minister Wong highlighted Niue and Australia's deep and longstanding ties, with shared culture and interests, thriving diaspora communities and a history of mutual cooperation.

"This visit for me, my first visit to the Rock, is such an important opportunity to listen and learn about your priorities, your ideas, and how we best tackle the shared challenges the region faces."

"I look forward to many more visits by Australians in the years ahead. This will not be my last."

As part of today's Constitution Day festivities, Minister Wong announced Australia's critical infrastructure support to Niue will focus on water and sanitation.

"I am very pleased that we are able to partner with you on a new critical infrastructure partnership focusing on water. Modern climate resilient water infrastructure is essential for resilience, the long-term future of Niue, and we are proud to support it."

Australia's critical infrastructure support of up to AUD2.4 million will be centred on targeted replacement and repair of the existing water supply system, increasing operational efficiencies, reducing costs, and ensuring Niueans have access to safe drinking water. The sanitation component will involve the construction of a treatment system, protecting the groundwater lens and nearshore fisheries.

Premier Tagelagi says the people of Niue are very grateful for Australia's support to provide a world class water and sanitation system.

"Water is life and improving water quality and the means to better treat waste on our island which will enhance and improve the wellbeing for every person on Niue. This support from Australia will make a significant difference and everyone on Niue says thank you," said Premier Tagelagi.

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