

# PWWA NEWSLETTER

01<sup>st</sup> Edition, 01<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



## *“Sustainable Water and Sanitation for Pasifika”*

This is the new Vision for PWWA...sustainable water and sanitation for Pasifika.

In February the new Board came together face to face over 3 days to review and agree on the draft PWWA Strategic Plan 2023-2027 tabled at the PWWA AGM in November 2022. It was an intensive meet and Board members endorsed the new Vision as well as the Mission “To strengthen advocacy, collaboration and capacity building for sustainable water and sanitation across the Pacific.” The four strategic priorities over the medium term are:

- **Advocacy:** strengthening our role as advocates for water in the Pacific;
- **Training:** supporting our members and partners to deliver core services;
- **Agility:** becoming an agile and progressive association; and
- **Funding:** diversifying our revenue streams to fund and sustain ongoing initiatives.

The strategic planning workshop generated direct input of the Board members in championing each of the core priority areas and working with the Secretariat in developing an implementation plan of activities and timeframe for the respective activities. This helped spearhead implementation and ownership given the very limited (human) resources within the Secretariat.

At the February meeting, the Board also formally approved the offer by Palau Public Utilities Corporation to host the 2023 Annual Conference and Expo and the Annual Water Ministerial Forum in Palau! Thank you to Frank Kyota and PPUC for the timely offer to host.

Quite apart from these strategic events, the first quarter was filled with many international and regional events that PWWA joined in virtually. These included the Launch of the new IBNET, the UN Water Conference Side Event focusing on the challenges facing the Pacific in meeting SDG6 and presenting the Ministerial Communique of the 2022 Water Ministers Conference; the AWP Partners meetings and a couple of webinars coordinated in collaboration with partner organizations such as PRIF on Utility members Diagnostic Study for meeting SDG6 and the ADB on non-revenue water.

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Work on the AWA-PWWA twinning collaboration took off on a good start with scoping missions by AWA to the selected participating utilities as well as with PWWA Secretariat.

This presents an exciting opportunity for learning and knowledge transfer for participating utilities and with the right match, the program should provide an excellent example for further collaboration of this nature.

The beginning of the year has not been without its natural disasters; the devastation to communities in Vanuatu especially caused by the two back-to-back Category 4 cyclones in March has not gone un-noticed with some trepidation of things to come. Climate change is the biggest challenge in the Pacific now; it will be for years to come and as we remember our colleagues in Vanuatu and the immediate health-related and humanitarian challenges they face, let us also ensure we vie for greater attention to climate change and water resilience in our region. The impact of climate change in our Pacific region is far more devastating given the considerable vulnerabilities of our small islands to natural disasters.

God bless.

Lusia

CEO, PWWA

## PWWA Strategic Plan

One voice across the Pacific

**Our Vision :** Sustainable water and sanitation for Pasifika

**Our Mission:** To strengthen advocacy, collaboration and capacity building for sustainable and resilient water and sanitation.



**Passionate**



**Inclusive**



**Respectful**



**Integrity**



**Committed**

**Our Values:**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**We will focus on:**

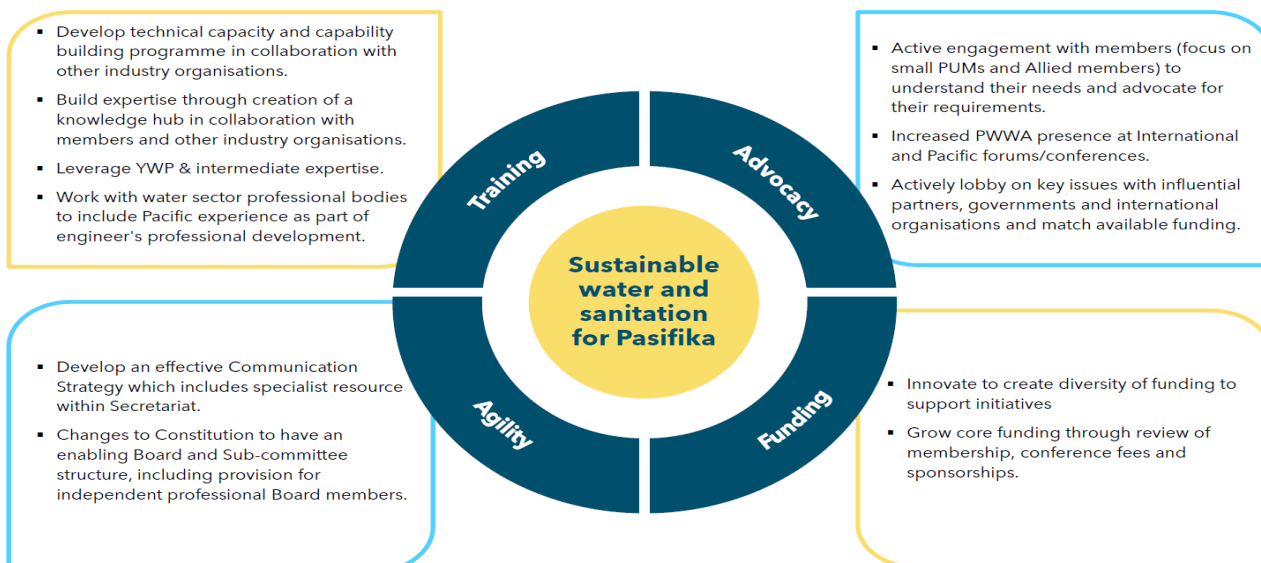
- Advocacy:** Strengthening our role as the peak body advocating for water in the Pacific.
- Training:** Supporting our members and partners to deliver core services
- Agility:** Becoming an agile and progressive association
- Funding:** Diversifying our revenue streams to fund and sustain ongoing initiatives.

**Our work will support the following benefits:**

- Improved Quality and Access:** Pasifika have safe drinking water and sanitation
- Higher level of service:** Improved delivery of water and sanitation services by PUMs
- Greater capacity and capability:** A growing pool of local expertise
- Better connectivity:** An inclusive, well connected, engaged network.
- Diverse representation and engagement across the Pacific:** Solutions that advocate for one Pacific but recognise individual member needs




## Strategic Solutions





(source MOERK Water)

Moerk Water has had a busy start to 2023 catching up with our partners and designing and constructing new water treatment systems. February saw the return of the Water and WASH Futures conference held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February. This was the first time in the last few years that the conference could be held in person due to COVID-19. It was great to catch up again with all of our collaborators across the Asia Pacific in person and we had many exciting discussions about providing renewable energy powered water treatment solutions to communities in need. Amongst other discussions, this included catching up with Tongan Ministry of Health officials who are installing the emergency Moerk Water seawater desalination systems that were funded by UNICEF Pacific to provide much needed assistance to remote communities in Tonga in the wake of the volcanic eruption in 2022.



Additional at the Water and WASH Futures Conference, Moerk Water was selected to present a poster on their work showcasing how seawater desalination can be successfully installed in remote regions in the Pacific. Seawater desalination has largely failed across the Pacific even though it is a well-established technology. Moerk Water’s success at installing seawater desalination systems in the region that operate long term comes down to a combination of renewable energy, a history of design excellence and a firm commitment to local training and capacity development.

Later this year, Moerk Water will again be taking part in delivering training for the Pacific Climate Change Centre as

part of the Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific (CBCRP) program.



At the factory Moerk Water engineers have been hard at work constructing our latest water treatment system. This system utilizes UV filtration to treat a microbiologically contaminated well to provide both safe drinking water for farmers and a separate source of treated water for them to grow crops with in Central Province, Papua New Guinea. The system utilizes UV LED technology which among its many other advantages allows for instantaneous sterilization and doesn’t use heavy metals. The project was partially funded by donations from the Mercy Reach Foundation in Western Australia.



Looking forward to a great 2023 and seeing everyone at the PWWA conference in August this year,

Dr Mat Francis (Director of Water Chemistry, Moerk Water Solutions Asia Pacific) [www.moerkwater.com.au](http://www.moerkwater.com.au)



(source Pacific Engineering Projects Ltd)

Pacific Engineering Projects Ltd (PEP) has recently successfully completed the civil, building, and electrical installation for the new Vunidawa Water Treatment Plant for the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF). This was the fourth such project by PEP, which followed the successful completion of similar work for WAF at Namau (Tailevu), Waiwai (Ba) and Savusavu Water Treatment Plants (WTP). PEP is currently doing similar work at the Nagado (Nadi) WTP for WAF.



Figure 1. Main switchboard at Vunidawa

The works included the supply, laying and testing of MV mains from Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) pole to the main switchboard and power to all the field devices. All the lighting was energy saving LED lights with poles made from renewable pine materials.



Figure 2. Aerial View of Vunidawa WTP

Pacific Engineering Projects also designed and constructed the main switchboard building and the generator plinth. This work was structurally certified to CAT 5 standards. PEP also designed, supplied, installed, tested, and commissioned the main switchboard (MSB). The power factor correction board installed externally was also designed, supplied, installed,

tested, and commissioned by PEP. All the lights installed are powered by a solar hybrid system. PEP designed, supplied, installed, tested, and commissioned the 5.5kW solar hybrid system. A lightning arrester was supplied and installed by PEP as well.



Figure 3. Vunidawa Operator



Figure 4. Waiwai WTP

Our client was once again happy with our work and had this to say, **“Great job carried out by your team”**.



Figure 5. Savusavu WTP main switchboard



Figure 6. Namau WTP Main switchboard and shed.

PEP is busy working in the Water and Wastewater sector across several countries in both the South and North Pacific. These include PWWA members Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), Solomon Islands Water Authority (SIWA) and Water Authority of Fiji (WAF).

(source Australian Water Partnership/PWWA Secretariat)

### ***THE AUSTRALIAN WATER PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP: Adelaide 8 – 9 March 2023.***

The annual AWP Partners Workshop gathers Australian water experts provided a space for cross-learning and knowledge exchange.

This two-day workshop provided a range of highly engaging, interactive, and informative sessions and networking opportunities that aim to drive conversation and practical steps towards the theme: ***'Partnering for resilience through water and climate action'***.

AWP partners attended this annual event to explore strategic approaches to contribute to enhancing sustainable water management in the Indo-Pacific region and share lessons learned. In 2023, the AWP Partners Workshop focused on the challenges and solutions around water security and climate change adaptation.

The workshop was delivered face-to-face in Adelaide, with keynotes from Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun and Rhonda Robinson.




The CEO attended virtually and provided input online to the challenges faced by Pacific Island countries around water security and climate change. Mr Paul Cobbin, PWWA Board Director attended in person.

## Asian Development Bank & PWWA WASH

**Pacific WASH**

WEBINARS


**ADB**




# Non-Revenue Water

**SPEAKERS**


**Quddus Fielea**  
Deputy CEO (Engineering Manager)  
Tonga Water Board




**Julius Matthes**  
Rural Division NRW & Leak Detection Engineer  
Samoa Water Authority



**Dean Taylor**  
Utility Advisor  
ADB Consultant



**Maria Tran - Facilitator**  
Senior Project Officer (Urban Development)  
Asian Development Bank




22 March 2023  
8am Manila / 11am Sydney / 12pm Suva

REGISTER: [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?join\\_source=calendar](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?join_source=calendar)  
Facilitator: Maria Tran, Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office, Asian Development Bank

Reducing water losses and improving the efficiency of water supply is a top priority for water utilities around the world.

Tackling non-revenue water (NRW)—the water ‘lost’ through leaks, illegal connections, or other inefficiencies, requires targeted long-term efforts and good baseline information to understand where to allocate resources.

Join us this World Water Day—22 March, as we explore Non-Revenue Water in the Pacific. The webinar will cover the fundamentals of NRW, including how to complete a water balance, and include case studies from Tonga Water Board and Samoa Water Authority on their experience with addressing Non-Revenue Water.



PWWA has been active in this collaboration with ADB for its Pacific WASH webinar series since 2021. This was the first webinar for the year 2023 on a topic that has been the focus and challenge for all Pacific water utilities in a long time. Member utilities – Tonga Water Board and Samoa Water Authority provided comprehensive presentations on how their organisations have individually dealt with the challenges of non-revenue water over the past years and moving forward.



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

## MEETING SDG6 IN THE PACIFIC: CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

This side event presented a summary of the challenges facing Pacific Island Countries and Territories, and the concrete actions that must be taken to meet SDG6.

These challenges and actions were identified at the 6th Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministers Forum, held in November 2022 in the Republic of Fiji, which resulted in an official communique being signed by Ministers and Government Representatives from 13 countries.

### Speakers:

- Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau MP, Minister for Ministry of Public Works and Meteorological Services
- Mr. Taitusi Vakadravuyaca, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Public Works and Meteorological Services
- Ms. Pitolau Lusua Sefo Leau, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association
- Mr. Ian Gooden, Chairperson, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association



Full event video



Minister's presentation



Written communique



Unable to attend the global UN Water Conference in New York, a number of organisations have had to resort to holding side events collaboratively with other organisations to get the water message across to this important issue. The PWWA was fortunate to have collaborated with WAF Fiji, the Ministry of Public Work, Meteorological Services, and the University of New South Wales Sydney in having this virtual side event. The side event focused on getting the Water Ministers' Communique from the 2022 Conference to the UN. The key message in the Communique is in respect of water security and achieving SDG6 in the Pacific region in light of imminent climate change challenges and higher vulnerabilities and risks of Pacific countries and territories to the effects of climate change.

## 7TH PRIF COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION (PWWA) ON THE ROLE OF PWWA UTILITIES IN ACHIEVING SDG-6



PRIF/PWWA Joint Community of Practice Webinar 7

Role of Pacific PWWA utilities in achieving SDG-6  
in the Pacific

### GUEST SPEAKERS



**Pitolau Lusua Sefo-Leau**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
PWWA  
Samoa



**Manasa Tusulu**  
Manager Research  
Evaluation & Monitoring  
Water Authority of Fiji



**Tmetuchi Baules**  
Director Administration  
Palau Public Utilities  
Corporation



**Jan Overbeek**  
Presenter  
PRIF Consultant

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 / 11:00am-12:00pm (Sydney Time)**  
(12:00pm-1:00pm Fiji time, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Tonga, Samoa time)



Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility



The event was a joint webinar hosted by PRIF and PWWA and presented the findings of the Diagnostic Report on the role of PWWA utilities in achieving SDG 6; a study sought by PWWA and funded by PRIF. The presentation of the consultant's findings were supplemented by presentations by two member utilities, Water Authority of Fiji and Palau Public Utilities Corporation sharing their experiences on the subject.



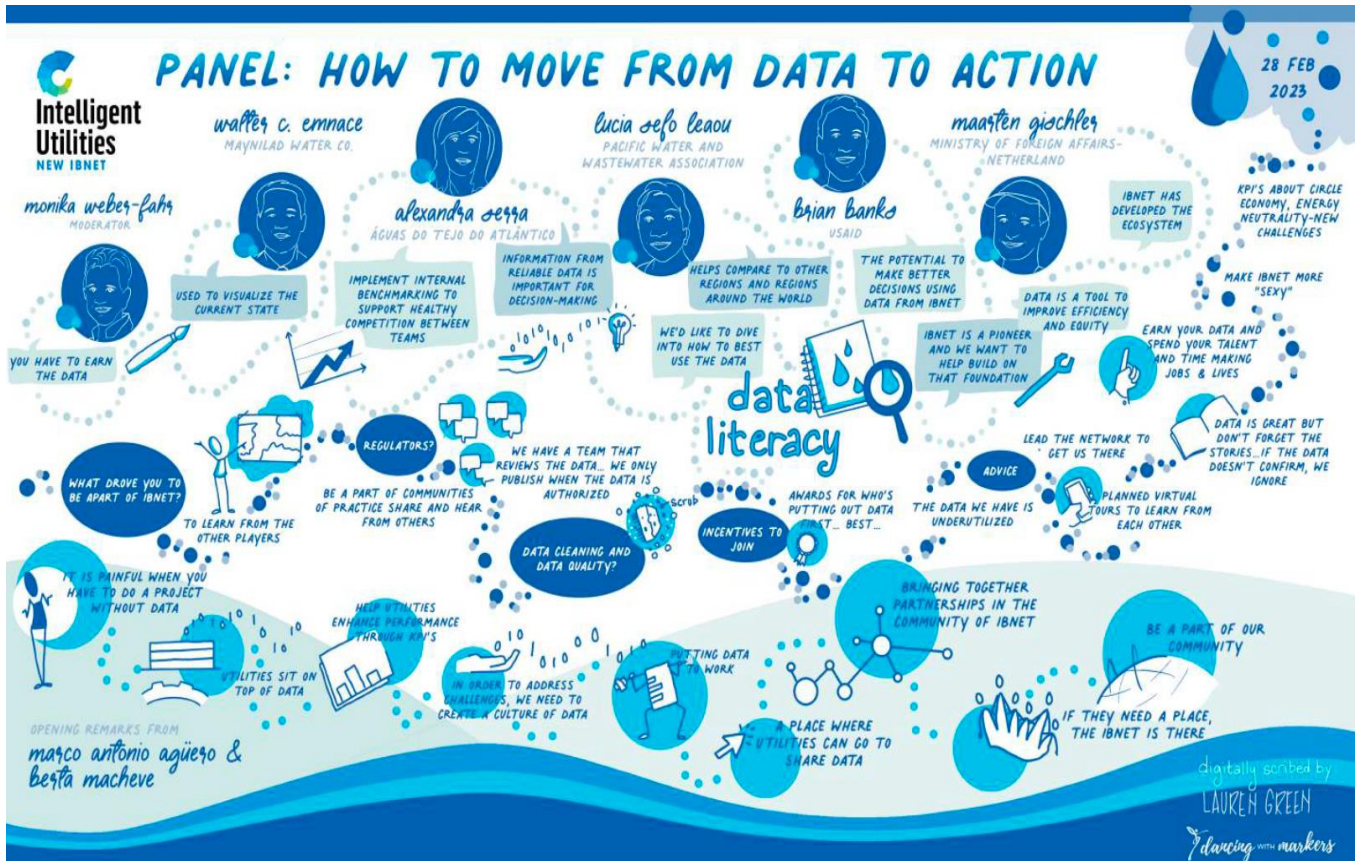
## New IBNET: “From Data to Action: Culture changes where utilities take charge of their Performance.”

PWWA has been involved with IBNET for over ten years, collecting data, analyzing, and making available reports and performance indicators of participating utilities in the benchmarking done annually for its members. The refinement of indicators and parameters for benchmarking data, the inclusion of gender disaggregated statistics, the inclusion of survey on the impact of covid-19 on performance of utilities, as well as potential inclusion of climate change indicators are just some of the improvements PWWA has been working with for its member utilities.

Last year IBNET decided to develop and launch a “new IBNET” and have looked to having PWWA sign up to the new IBNET this year. PWWA is currently negotiating with the new IBNET a Letter of Intent to ensure ownership of the data remains with PWWA as has been the case in the past. In the meantime, PWWA is actively involved in making sure we get the benefits for our members in joining the new IBNET.

On 28 February this year, the new IBNET held a technical session launching the redesigned IBNET “From Data to Action: culture changes where utilities take charge of their Performance”. The CEO PWWA participated virtually as a panel member on the discussion of data culture in the water and sanitation sector and raised the importance of data literacy enabling a data culture for making improved decisions.

Secretariat





## Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa

*(source Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment Samoa)*

### **WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE SECTOR'S SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAM, 27th-28th March 2023**

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector through its Water and Sanitation Sector Coordination Division conducted its first ever nationwide school awareness campaign for all 12 colleges in Savaii from the 27th – 28th March 2023. The program was divided into 2 days.

#### Day 1: Monday 27th March 2023

Program was held at the Methodist Church, Matavai Asau with the opening prayer conducted by Rev. Pulea Tiumalu followed by the opening remarks by the ACEO of the Water and Sanitation Coordination Division, Susuga Papalii Ruth Ueselani. The participating schools were:

- Itu Asau College
- Palauli Sisifo College
- Savaii Sisifo Secondary School
- Itu o Tane College
- Alofi-o-taoa College

#### Day 2: Tuesday 28th March 2023

Program was held at the Apita o Pisaga Hall, Salelologa with the opening prayer conducted by Rev. Sinaumea Livi followed by the opening remarks by the ACEO of the Water and Sanitation Coordination Division. The participating schools were:

- Amoa College
- Mataaevave College
- Vaiola LDS College
- Tuasivi College
- Don Bosco College
- Uesiliana College
- Palauli College

A total of 10 students were invited together with 2 teachers per school to take part in these awareness programs. The purpose of this awareness program was to build the capacity, awareness as well as the interests of students. Such built interests can be translated to future career plans and paths for some of our students within the WaSH sector and to promote the works that are currently being carried out by its' implementing agencies.

The following are Implementing Agencies that presented on their key roles/responsibilities of the under the WaSH Sector:

- Samoa Water Authority by Ms. Robyn Lei Sam (Water Supply)
- Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association by Afioga Asi Taiatu Sasa Milo (Water Supply)
- Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development by Asiata Viveita Semu in conjunction with the Samoa Independent Water Schemes
- Ministry of Health by Ms. Hinoma Tapu (Drinking Water Quality)
- Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure by Mr. Seve Sulamanaia Malaga (Sanitation)
- Land Transport Authority by Mr. Etiseli Fauatea (Flood Mitigation and Drainage)
- Water and Sanitation Coordination Division, MNRE by Ms. Perise Kerslake (Sector Governance and Orientation)

Both programs included trivia games which tested the knowledge and understanding of the students on the presentations by each implementing agency. Overall, it was fun and exciting experience for both the students and teachers.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector wishes to acknowledge all its Implementing Agencies together with its stakeholders especially the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture and all the colleges in Savaii for the ongoing collaboration and support with the awareness programs that were conducted during this period.

## **Cyclone Kevin & Judy in Vanuatu, March 2023**

*Source: WFP Pacific Situation Report: Vanuatu Tropical Cyclones (6 April 2023)*

### **Update**

Two Category 4 tropical cyclones, Judy, and Kevin, struck the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu on 1 and 3 March, affecting over 251,000 people.

Among the affected provinces were Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea, and Torba. Of these, high priority areas identified by the Government to receive support include Efate (in Shefa Province) and Tafea.

One month after the two devastating cyclones, 28 evacuation centres remain active and are hosting over 400 people, while over 800 people are staying with host households.

The Government of Vanuatu leads the overall emergency response, with support from the Pacific Humanitarian Team through the clusters.

The government-led Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) facilitates the distribution of food rations around the capital city, Port Vila, and Tafea Province, with logistics support from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

The government-led Health Cluster is raising awareness on the spread of water-borne and other infectious diseases in all high priority areas. In the last week of March, eight cases of leptospirosis were reported.

### **Impact In Numbers**

- 251,300 people (over 80 percent of the population) or 30,000 households in six provinces affected.
- 441 individuals (169 households) displaced in
- 28 active evacuation centres
- 812 individuals (129 households) displaced staying in host households.

## Advertisements & Announcements



### **Are you our next Chief Executive Officer?**

Solomon Water is a state-owned enterprise wholly owned by the Solomon Islands Government. The SOE was created under the Solomon Islands Water Act (1993), to provide water and sewerage services in urban areas of the country (currently Honiara and three provincial centers: Auki, Noro and Tulagi).

Our mission is to provide reliable and safe water supply and sewerage systems within our area of operations in Solomon Islands, while working in partnership with the community to plan, deliver and operate infrastructure in a manner that seeks to minimize the social and environmental impacts of our activities.

We are looking for a dynamic and passionate leader to continue to lead us in the achievement of our mission. You will have extensive experience at an executive level and a passion for working in partnership with communities. You will have exceptional people skills with the ability to engage and develop lasting, positive relationships with a range of stakeholders, including government ministers and key governing bodies.

Excellent critical and strategic thinking abilities, coupled with strong operational ability are essential. You will have the skills to navigate through complex issues prioritising, managing and delivering outcomes that fulfil the commercial and strategic priorities of Solomon Water.

As Chief Executive Officer, you will be resilient and experienced in leading others in challenging environments. You will have significant experience in the Pacific in developing countries with proven leadership capability to work in culturally diverse environments with respect and sensitivity.

You will be a proven leader with at least 20 years overall professional experience, with at least 10 of these in water supply, or a similar technical industry.

This is a challenging and exciting role for the right person.

This position will be based in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

If this sounds like you, please contact Kathie Hill at [Kathie@khr.co.nz](mailto:Kathie@khr.co.nz) for a candidate briefing pack. Candidates **MUST** provide a current CV and cover letter, ensuring the key competencies and required skills and experience are addressed. All inquiries will be discussed in confidence.

**Applications close 5pm (Solomon Island time), Monday 24 April 2023.**



04/10/2023

## ADVANCE NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CPUC have several procurement packages coming up, with Notice of Invitation to Tender expected to be release on [Tenderlink](https://portal.tenderlink.com/cpuc) during Q2-Q3 2023. These include Water supply pipelines, storage tanks, pumping stations, drilling of boreholes, new intake and package water treatment plant, rehabilitation of sewerage mains and pump replacements, and an Inflow and Infiltration investigation and associated physical works. The key details are summarised in the below table.

Contract Package No.	Contract Package Name	Contract type	Key components
1	Wichen River Scheme: run of river intake, water treatment plant (WTP), and ancillary equipment	DB	Construction of run-of-river intake with pump station. Raw water rising main. Package WTP. Raw and treated water tanks
2	Wichap/Epinup Well Development, Weno well consolidation	SI	Installation of pumps and wellheads on 3 existing new boreholes. Construction of 5 new storage tanks, each with connections from existing boreholes. Chlorination, booster pump and fenced compound for each storage tank.
3	Water Supply Augmentation and Rehabilitation	SI	Supply & installation of approx 8.1miles of HDPE pipeline from 4" to 8". Household connections x 1000
5B	Inflow & infiltration investigations and wastewater rehabilitation	SI	I&I investigative fieldwork and associated rehab works to reduce I&I. Rehab of sewer pipelines and grinder stations. Replacement of 2 main sewer pump stations

If you are a supplier, we invite you to register on illlion Tenderlink at <https://portal.tenderlink.com/cpuc> to receive future notice of invitation or request for tenders (bids) from CPUC.

**CPUC - Working for a Brighter Future**

P.O. Box 910 Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942 - Phone: (691) 330 2400

## Upcoming Events

EVENTS	DATE
Australian Water 2023, Sydney	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> May
WASH Webinars Co-ordinated by ADB with PWWA, 2023 Groundwater Assessments to Support Planning and Resilience Register here: <a href="https://events.development.asia/learning-events/groundwater-assessments-support-planning-and-resilience">https://events.development.asia/learning-events/groundwater-assessments-support-planning-and-resilience</a>	17 <sup>th</sup> May.
Role of Utilities in Supporting Rural WASH Register here: <a href="https://events.development.asia/learning-events/role-utilities-supporting-rural-wash">https://events.development.asia/learning-events/role-utilities-supporting-rural-wash</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> July
PWWA Annual Conference 2023, Palau	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 01 <sup>st</sup> September
NZ Water Conference 2023, Wellington	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> October



**Registrations are now open.**

**Please visit our website to download registration form.**

**PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT**

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