

# Australia Improves Maritime Safety with South-West Pacific Partners



Shaping strategic policy in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting and related navigational safety was the focus of the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting, held in Wollongong last week. Members of the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission work together to improve maritime safety through hydrographic capacity building and forging strong connections as a maritime community.

Commodore Fiona Freeman, RAN, Hydrographer of Australia, hosted the event and said it presented an opportunity for delegates to discuss developments in surveys, charting and maritime safety information. "The Australian Hydrographic Office is the nation's official hydrographic agency, responsible for meeting Defence's obligations for the provision of nautical charts, products and services under the Navigation Act," Commodore Freeman

said.

## Security and Economic Development

"Defence, through the Australian Hydrographic Office, is working with its counterparts to strengthen the South-West Pacific region's hydrographic capability and safe use of the maritime environment, which are important to the region's security and economic development. Australia is a maritime nation, and we share a reliance on the Pacific Ocean with our neighbours in the region. The South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission meeting provides us with a unique opportunity to engage as partners in this vitally important area", she added. "I welcome the government, international organization and industry representatives from 15 nations as we work together to optimise the safe use of the maritime environment."

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