GOVERNMENT OF THE
COOK ISLANDS

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Prime Minister launches new Police radio network as prevention partnership enters next phase



Prime Minister Hon. Mark Brown with Cook Islands Police, New Zealand Police and invited guests at today's launch.

Prime Minister and Minister of Police, the Honourable Mark Brown, today launched the Cook Islands Police Digital Mobile Radio Network and witnessed the signing of the next phase of the Pacific Islands Prevention Policing Programme partnership between Cook Islands Police and New Zealand Police.

The event in Rarotonga was hosted by Cook Islands Police Commissioner Teokotai Joseph and attended by New Zealand Police Commissioner Richard Chambers and a New Zealand Police delegation, Australian High Commissioner Her Excellency Ms Susannah Hodson, New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner Mr Ryan Brown, officers of the Cook Islands Police Service and project partners.

The new network gives Cook Islands Police a modern, secure communications system. It was funded, managed and coordinated through New Zealand Police's Officer Safety Pacific programme, which has worked alongside Cook Islands Police since 2024.

> *"We are now in cyclone season, and this network arrives at the right time. When a cyclone is approaching, when a search is under way, or when a serious incident unfolds, being able to communicate quickly and clearly makes all the difference," Prime Minister Brown said.*



Prime Minister Hon. Mark Brown with New Zealand Police Commissioner Richard Chambers (left) and Cook Islands Police Commissioner Teokotai Joseph (right).

The Prime Minister said that while the network was delivered for Police, its value reaches further, providing a platform for emergency management, disaster response and stronger cooperation between agencies on national security. It has been built to grow, with the potential to extend to Aitutaki in the future.

> *"For our officers, reliable communications is a matter of safety. This network means our people on the frontline can call for support and coordinate a response with confidence, wherever they are working," Commissioner Joseph said.*

"Our partnership with Officer Safety Pacific began with officer safety training and has grown to include equipment, infrastructure and the capability of our whole organisation. This network is one of the most significant results of that partnership, and I thank New Zealand Police and everyone involved in delivering it."



Commissioner Teokotai Joseph and New Zealand Police Commissioner Richard Chambers sign the next phase of the Pacific Islands Prevention Policing Programme partnership.

The Pacific Islands Prevention Policing Programme, led by New Zealand Police, has supported Cook Islands Police since 2018 to strengthen prevention-focused policing, including the development of a Cook Islands approach to prevention that addresses family harm, alcohol-related offending, youth and road safety. The next phase will place an adviser in the Cook Islands, working alongside Cook Islands Police officers day to day.

"The next phase builds on the work our officers have already done. Having an adviser based here, working alongside our team every day, will help us continue to strengthen prevention, intelligence and leadership within Cook Islands Police," Commissioner Joseph said.



Prime Minister Hon. Mark Brown is welcomed by Cook Islands Police officers on arrival.

"Prevention is something Cook Islanders understand well. Our families, our villages and our churches have always looked out for one another. Keeping people safe has never been the work of Police alone, and prevention policing builds on that strength," Prime Minister Brown said.

Prime Minister Brown acknowledged the Government of New Zealand for its continued commitment to the Cook Islands and the region.

"Reliable communications is the backbone of national resilience. To our officers: this network is yours. Look after it, use it well, and let it support the work you already do so well, keeping our people safe," Prime Minister Brown said.



Guests, partners and officers at the launch and signing ceremony.

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