

TECHNOLOGY AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Building water resilience

PACIFICCONNECT
International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

Pacific Connect Virtual Dialogue

28 May 2020

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Online

PACIFIC CONNECT DIALOGUE REPORT



Summary

Due to COVID19 travel restrictions the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) convened its first virtual dialogue: *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue – Technology & Water Sustainability (Solomon Islands) on 28 May 2020.

With the assistance of our Pacific Connect Community members in Australia and Honiara, ICDP assembled a group of individuals online and at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara. Participants backgrounds ranged from government, business, academia and NGO's with experience in hydrology, ICT, health, immunology, engineering, agriculture, and the environment.

Participants gathered to discuss how digital connectivity and emerging technologies can expand business opportunities in water sustainability. The aim of the Dialogue was to connect current and emerging leaders in the Pacific and Australia and to provide the opportunity for participants to build connections and identify opportunities to work together through selecting practical projects to take forward.

Due to COVID19 travel restrictions, Australian & Fijian participants were online and Solomon Islands participants dialled in from a conference room at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara.

The Dialogue was facilitated by Mr Shaun Kies-Ryan, Co-Founder & Hydrologist, earth, water, people and Mr James Kana, Managing Director Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group (Solomon Islands).

The Dialogue flyer and programme are attached for reference as well as key statistics from the dialogue.

Discussions

Nineteen emerging leaders attended the dialogue - eight from Solomon Islands, one from Fiji and ten from Australia including eight women. It was convened online and in a Honiara hotel conference room. The programme comprised an initial introductory session where: the Pacific Connect programme and second track process were introduced, brief introductions of participants and the dialogue topic was introduced along with potential topics gleaned from pre-dialogue input from participants.

The second session involved participants self-selecting into three groups to further explore more specific issues around the topic, brainstorm and hone ideas into projects to pitch to the group at the end of the day and which they could continue to work on post dialogue. The groups were asked to report back at the end of the day.

Projects

The following topics were identified to continue exploring as potential projects:

- Development of a 'Community Delivery' strategy to support information sharing, communication and community engagement on water issues.
- Development of a data mapping tool to help communities self-manage and report on water issues.
- Develop a single reporting point to support enforcement and empowering of water management in communities (e.g. fix the leak).

Feedback

Separately the facilitators and ICDP Pacific Connect Program team participated in a debrief session making the following observations:

- Connectivity was very good with no reported buffering – using hotel conference facilities supported the strong connectivity.
- It was noted that online facilitation was very different and a detailed rehearsal before the event was very important. Co-facilitators should work closely before the event to decide who would lead and agree handover techniques.
- An ICDP curator role is important to provide overall structure and details to participants about what is required.
- Need to encourage more pre-engagement by participants so that people know what is expected when they join the virtual event.
- Designated Moderators are required in each break room when participants are discussing project ideas and pitch development to provide timings and structure.
- Prior to dialogue – provide a demonstration of what is expected for a pitch as there was a lack of understanding around what was expected. Also convey that there is an expectation that a Pacific team member should deliver the pitch.
- Have more obvious start and stop points / time broken down into shorter activities that could be tied together with breaks.
- The group needed a better ratio of Pacific participants to Australians. As the imbalance led to the Australians in the room driving much of the conversation and it was difficult to find Pacific-based project champions.

Following the Dialogue, participants were asked to complete a Post-Dialogue survey. Eleven participants completed the survey **out of the nineteen in attendance**. The majority of participants surveyed (**64%, 7 people**) indicated that this was their first program event.

Eighty-two percent of participants (**9/11**) completely agreed with the notion the *'Pacific Connect cultivates enduring relationships between Australia and the Pacific.'* Participants were mostly in agreement with the idea that *'Pacific Connect facilitates greater exchange of ideas and expertise,'* with **10 out of 11** participants 'completely agreeing'.

Overall, participants surveyed found the Dialogue very useful. **Nine** participants found the Dialogue 'very useful' for:

- 'Exploring new ideas, projects and initiatives with *Pacific Connect* participants'; and
- 'Creating larger networks based on current and emerging leaders from Australia and the Pacific.'

In regards to agreeing with the statements that the Dialogue was valuable in terms of *'Identifying future joint projects and opportunities to collaborate with other emerging leaders'* and *'networking opportunities with other participants'*, a majority (**64%**) found these aspects to be very valuable.

Five participants indicated they had **'little to no understanding'** of the program's intent to *'promote Pacific Island women as current and future leaders.'* This may have been partly due to the theme of the dialogue, however, ICDP will endeavour to ensure this objective is promoted in all dialogues – noting 8 women (42%) were represented in the dialogue.

For a full analysis of the survey please refer to the attached Dialogue Key Findings Report. See some quotes from the survey outcomes below:

"I have a stronger sense that the community and organisations are really seeking ways to improve health and quality of life for people, and the way that organisations in the Pacific are potentially willing to help promote that."

"It's [the Dialogue] opened up a network of experts participating in something that will improve the Pacific's infrastructure and development through technological and innovation advancements."

Next steps

Project participants agreed that they will continue to network online via zoom conference meetings, the dedicated Slack channel in the Pacific Connect Network Slack and email. ICDP will support project teams by arranging zoom project meetings for each team. ICDP will also report back to Mr Ian Gooden, CEO, Solomon Islands Water Board and provide an overview of the potential projects connecting him with project leads. ICDP will also connect project teams to potential funding opportunities. Attached is the communique cleared by the participants.

Dialogue Participants

Facilitators

- Mr Shaun Kies-Ryan, Co-Director, earth, water, people
- Mr James Kana, Managing Director Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group

Solomon Island Participants

- Ms Angellah Anisi, WASH Programme Coordinator, Plan International
- Mr Kenneth Bulehite, Water Engineer, Bulehite Engineering
- Mr Erick Hale, Programme Coordinator, Plan International
- Mr Brian Mangi, Network Administrator, Sol Is Nat'l University
- Ms Jacelyn Parsad, Medical Laboratory Analyst, National Public Health Laboratory
- Ms Enif Petsakibo, Live & Learn Environmental Education
- Dr Edgar Pollard, Director, Pasifiki HR
- Mr Peter Wopereis, WASH Engineering Advisor, Sol Is Ministry of Health

Fiji Participant

- Mr Fred Fuakilau, Partner/Consultant, DS-Insight Group

Australian Participants

- Ms Thomasin Abraham, Software Developer, CommonCode
- Dr Simon Albert, Senior Research Fellow, School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland
- Mr Ash Guy, Technical Principal, CommonCode
- Ms Samantha Kies-Ryan, Director, earth water people
- Ms Som-Ling Leung, Project Leader, Torah WASH
- Mr Simeon Morgan, Technical Principal, CommonCode
- Ms Kim Murphy, Senior Lecturer, Monash University
- Mr Tom Rankin, Programme Manager, WASH Plan International Australia
- Dr Regina Souter, WASH & IWM Specialist, International Water Centre
- Mr Jemi White, Product Manager, CommonCode

ICDP

- Simone Pensko, CEO, ICDP
- Tina Briggs, Programme Manager, ICDP
- Benjamin Blackshaw, Communications Coordinator, ICDP



Pacific Connect Network Virtual Dialogue – Technology and Water Sustainability

LOCATION

Online (videoconference) and Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands



28 May 2020



ATTENDEES



523

Pacific Connect
Community members

Solomon Islands

Fiji

Australia

Network
Dialogue
Participants

21



19
Emerging
Leaders



Female **42%** Male **58%**



ENGAGEMENT FORMAT



Networking sessions
'Ask and Offer' and
Challenge sessions
Ongoing & successful
project presentations



Collaboration on 'technology
and water sustainability'
project ideas





Pacific Connect Network Dialogue – Technology and Water Sustainability

MENTORSHIP and NETWORKING



Access to Pacific Connect Slack channel for opportunities to:

- Find mentors in the #MentorCentral channel
- Promote professional development opportunities
- Network with subject matter and in-country experts

282

Slack workspace members

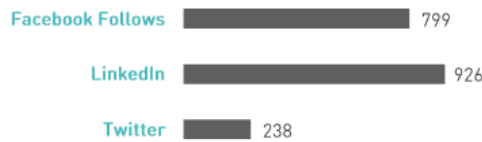


PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL



Followers



757

Facebook Likes



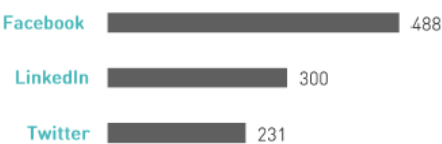
Total Reach



@Pacific_Connect #Digital Pacific



Best Performing Posts Reach





Pacific Connect invites you to join other ambitious and accomplished change-makers at its annual Network Dialogue in Honiara. The two-day event will bring together leaders from the Pacific and Australia to discuss how digital connectivity and emerging technologies can expand business opportunities in water sustainability. Submissions due by 23 March 2020.

What is 'Pacific Connect'?

Pacific Connect was launched by the Prime Minister of Australia in September 2017 to forge stronger, strategic-level relationships between Pacific and Australian leaders across the public, private and community sectors. *Pacific Connect* is delivered by the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) and sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It operates in Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

ICDP has designed a program of activities to promote collaboration, networking and business opportunities between Australia and the Pacific. The broad theme for the activities is applying digital technology to support sustainable development with a focus on women and entrepreneurs.

What is the 'Network Dialogue'?

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue brings together small groups of dynamic emerging leaders from the Pacific and Australia to build business capacity and foster collaboration. Delivered using the 'Second Track' process and incorporating the Pacific 'Talanoa', the dialogue aims to set realistic goals in a trusted and safe environment. Facilitators encourage participants to share ideas and develop practical steps to reach them, whilst ensuring different perspectives and the expertise of others is valued in a respectful cultural context.

With this underlying philosophy, the *Pacific Connect* program creates a dialogue to help build business capacity and establish a strong network to support long-term professional and personal collaborations.

In 2019, ICDP convened ten Network Dialogues in the region, which were supported by issue-specific workshops and regular networking events.

What are we aiming for?

Addressing water and sanitation challenges in the Solomon Islands is a fundamental measure in addressing basic human rights and economic growth needed, especially for women and girls.

The aim of the two-day event is to engage participants from government, industry and academia to turn a passion for water sustainability into action, developing projects for the water future of Solomon Islands. It will be run in acknowledgement of the Sustainable Development Goal on sustainable water management and sanitation for all.

Potential topics for discussion may include current and future technologies for water usage, collaborative data collection, mapping of the watershed, water security and safety, sanitation, and wastewater treatment and waste disposal.

Through practical, action-oriented discussions and workshops, participants will:

- ▶ Learn ways to integrate their passion for water and sustainability into action
- ▶ Create opportunities to grow their businesses through connecting with tech businesses, water experts, entrepreneurs and utilities
- ▶ Expand their personal and professional networks to find the support they need for success

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Dr Ian Watt AC**, Chair of ICDP and **Mr Ian Gooden**, General Manager, Solomon Water.



Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people with leadership skills, a positive, 'big picture' outlook and a record of achievement in their chosen field.

Our participants will be courageous and passionate free thinkers willing to share their own networks and ideas to build a better tomorrow for all. A keen interest in digital technology is necessary, but technical skills are not.

How will you benefit?

Pacific Connect offers exciting opportunities for outstanding people in Australia and the Pacific to forge new relationships through continued engagement on common challenges.

Opportunities include:

- ▶ Mentoring and internships with Australian and Pacific organisations
- ▶ Business capacity building, including opportunities for informal/formal pitches
- ▶ Study tours to experience Australian start-up and entrepreneur communities
- ▶ An invitation to participate in future Pacific Connect Dialogues and international forums, including the annual Ideas Exchange
- ▶ Unique networking opportunities with regional leaders
- ▶ Development of new commercial partnerships
- ▶ Seed funding for select projects

For a full description of opportunities available for Community members, see the *Pacific Connect Participant Lifecycle Diagram* attached and refer to our website, www.icdp.com.au



PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2020
 Venue Heritage Park Hotel – Honiara

Dialogue – Technology and Water Sustainability

4:00pm Registration. Official welcome
 4:10pm LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
 6:30pm Free time

Venue: Heritage Park Hotel –Honiara
 7:00pm NETWORKING DINNER
 9:00pm Close

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2020

Dialogue – Technology and Water Sustainability

8:45am Networking, Tea & coffee
 9:00am PLANNING SESSION
 10:30am Morning tea
 10:45am PROJECT INITIATION
 12:00pm Lunch
 1:00pm INFORMATION SESSION
 1:30pm PROJECT CONCEPTION
 2:45pm OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS
 3:00pm Dialogue Closes

How can you get involved?

Please forward your career history, a brief overview of your relevant achievements, and an outline of any community work or a recent CV to pacific_dialogue@icdp.com.au For more information about the application process, please [click here](#).

Enquiries info@icdp.com.au

Deadline 23 March 2020

Australia-Pacific Connections
for a Digital Future

TECHNOLOGY AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Building water resilience

PACIFIC CONNECT
VIRTUAL DIALOGUE
Honiara, Solomon Islands
& Australia
28 May 2020

TECHNOLOGY AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY – BUILDING WATER RESILIENCE PACIFIC CONNECT VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

LOCATION

Solomon Island participants

AHARA Conference Room, Heritage Park Hotel, Mendana Avenue, Honiara

Australian Participants

Zoom Conference Call

PROGRAMME – Thursday 28 May 2020

Purpose: The Dialogue will bring together participants from government, industry and academia to turn a passion for water sustainability into action by discussing challenges and opportunities, and identifying projects that can apply technology solutions to improving the water future of the Solomon Islands.

Aim: The aim of the dialogue is for participants to identify one or two practical projects for participants to take forward. Potential topics for discussion may include current and future technologies for water usage, collaborative data collection, mapping of the watershed, water security and safety, sanitation, and wastewater treatment and waste disposal.

Session One

10.00AM (AEST) Official Welcome, Introductions & Topic Overview

11.00AM (Sol Is)

(60 minutes)

Facilitators – **Mr Shaun Kies-Ryan, Co-Director, earth, water, people**

Mr James Kana, Managing Director Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group

ICDP - **Ms Simone Pensko, CEO**

- To include:
- Introduction of Facilitators,
 - Overview of ICDP/Pacific Connect
 - Purpose of dialogue
 - Structure of virtual convening & dialogue
 - Brief individual introductions by participants

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC – THOUGHT CLUSTERS/PROJECT GROUPS

Facilitators - **Mr Shaun Kies-Ryan, James Kana**

Participants to discuss potential project concepts/topics with the aim of breaking into Thought Cluster/Project Groups for Session Two. Suggested topics for thought clusters/project groups from 'ask, offer & challenge' question posed pre dialogue are:

- Capacity building, training, and education in the water sector
- Communication, collaboration & cooperation – all sectors
- Data mapping and application, research
- Community engagement, sustainability & governance
- Improving water supply delivery, maintenance and monitoring incl security & safety

Participants have been notionally placed in groups pre-dialogue, however, as discussions progress in this session there is opportunity to adjust topics, the number of groups and transfer to a different group. This session will rely heavily on participant input and guidance to enable quality contribution and generation of tangible project concepts that can be progressed during Session Two.

Noting: thought cluster/project groups to number no more than 6 people and to have a blend of Sol Is & Non-Sol Is participants and mix of skills/experience. Participants who have an interest in several topics will have the opportunity to work with other projects post dialogue.

The 'ask and offer' provided in the bios can assist to generate discussion & networking during Session Two, and Breakout Rooms will be provided at the end of the dialogue for discussions and networking to continue if requested by participants. Zoom Chat can also be used to connect with participants, ask questions and 'park' thoughts during the dialogue.

(Zoom Breakout Rooms will be created at the end of Session 1, and participants will be invited into a room matching their thought cluster/project group finalised at the end of Session Two)

Session Two

11.00AM (AEST) THOUGHT CLUSTER / PROJECT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

12.00PM (Sol Is)

(60 minutes)

Facilitators – **Shaun Kies-Ryan, James Kana**

Thought Cluster Groups discuss topic and potential project ideas with the aim of developing a pitch for Facilitators/larger group.

12.00PM (AEST) WORKING LUNCH & THOUGHT CLUSTER GROUP DISCUSSIONS cont'd

1.00PM (Sol Is)

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International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

(30 minutes) Lunch provided to Solomon Island participants and participants can take a break and/or continue discussions. (Group can decide)

12.30PM (AEST) *THOUGHT CLUSTER GROUP DISCUSSIONS CONT'D*

1.30PM (Sol Is)
(45 minutes)

Facilitators – **Shaun Kies-Ryan, James Kana**
Support **ICDP & Zoom Project Room Hosts**

Thought Cluster Groups continue discussing topic and potential project ideas with the aim of developing a pitch for Facilitators/larger group.

Facilitators will check with groups on timing with some flexibility around extension of time if needed.

(Short 5-minute break to stretch legs & get some fresh air)

Session Three

(All participants will be invited to return to main Zoom room)

1.15PM (AEST) *PROJECT TEAMS REPORT BACK & PITCH IDEAS*

2.15PM (Sol Is)
(40 minutes)

Feedback – **Shaun Kies-Ryan, James Kana, & Simone Pensko**

Each 'Thought Cluster/Project Team' to pitch idea to Facilitators/ICDP and larger group for feedback & Q&A.

2.00PM (AEST) *SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS*

3.00PM (Sol Is)
(30 minutes)

Facilitators – **Shaun Kies-Ryan, James Kana**
ICDP - **Simone Pensko**

Summation of the dialogue outcomes & next steps for participants & projects.

2.30PM (AEST) *VIRTUAL DIALOGUE CLOSE*

3.30PM (Sol Is)

Participants are welcome to request Zoom Breakout Rooms to continue discussions or networking post dialogue.

Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future

Pacific Connect Network Virtual Dialogue

Technology & Water Sustainability – Building Water Resilience

28 May 2020, Honiara, Solomon Islands & Online

Communiqué

1. We, the participants of the Pacific Connect Network Dialogue on Technology & Water Sustainability, met on 28 May 2020 online and in Honiara, Solomon Islands at the invitation of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) with the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
2. We would like to thank our hosts – ICDP for taking the opportunity to convene a virtual dialogue and to enable Honiara-based participants to gather at the Heritage Park Hotel in person to link with online participants. We also thank Mr Shaun Kies-Ryan and Mr James Kana for facilitating the sessions.
3. We congratulate the organisers on assembling an impressive group of participants from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Australia. Participants had diverse backgrounds and experiences across a range of sectors, including, hydrology, IT, health, immunology, engineering, agriculture, and the environment.
4. We believe the Dialogue enabled us to further contribute to the topic in a different way and provided a forum for open and honest discussion, expanding our networks and contacts and as an enabler for developing joint tangible projects to take forward.
5. We applaud Australia's step-up in engagement with the Pacific and its commitment to build stronger, long-lasting relationships with Pacific Island nations. We believe that Pacific Connect and the 'Second Track' process offer opportunities to collaborate in a way that encourages positive, fresh thinking and a personal interest in achieving practical results.
6. We think that translating ideas into concrete projects that we can work on together is an effective strategy to support longer term sustainable

relationships. We are inspired by the success of previous Pacific Connect Dialogues in the Solomon Islands producing projects such as ‘Every building is a classroom’ and ‘Less Than Container Load’, as they demonstrate what can be achieved through sustained collaboration.

7. We recognise that addressing water and sanitation challenges in the Solomon Islands is a fundamental measure in addressing basic human rights and economic growth needed. We believe that technology can assist in addressing some challenges but recognise that by building local awareness and empowering communities particularly women and youth, to self-manage, collect data and report on water assets is essential to water sustainability.
8. We appreciate having the opportunity to input to the topic pre-dialogue which enabled the group to further understand the challenges and to focus on several topics under the theme. In subgroups we were then able to elaborate on our areas of interest and collaboratively identify the following three projects for continued discussion:
 - a) Development of a ‘Community Delivery’ strategy to support communication and community engagement on water issues
 - b) Development of a water sustainability mapping tool to help communities self-manage and report
 - c) Develop a single reporting point to support enforcement and empowering of water management in communities
9. We will develop these ideas through further meetings, ICDP’s Slack forum and other online media. We understand that each idea will need a Champion to coordinate meetings and encourage the group progress to next steps. While every idea from the Dialogue may not come to fruition, we hope that the time and effort spent in the Dialogue and on project development will strengthen our personal links and form a foundation of longer-term relationships.
10. We welcome the invitation to participate in future Pacific Connect activities including the online Pacific Connect Ideas Exchange, planned for September 2020, and look forward to forming connections with other members of the fast-growing Pacific Connect Community.

Pacific Connect Technology & Water Sustainability Virtual Dialogue May 2020 survey findings

Overview

ICDP held a Network Dialogue on the theme of 'technology and water sustainability in the Solomon Islands' on 28 May 2020.

Being the first Network Dialogue held under no travel and physical distancing measures imposed during the Covid-19, pandemic, the Dialogue was held online utilising Zoom videoconference software.

The Virtual Dialogue brought together **19 participants**, of which **10** were Australian based, **eight** from the **Solomon Islands**, and one from **Fiji**. Out of the **19** attending, **8** were females.

Following the Virtual Dialogue, participants were asked to complete a survey. **11** participants (**58%**) took part. The key findings from the Network Dialogue are outlined below:

Awareness of Pacific Connect program, networks and opportunities

A strong majority of participants surveyed (**64%, 7 people**) indicated that this was their first program event. **Two** respondents claimed this was their second event, and a further **two** expressed that this was at least their third program event.

Dialogue participants were asked to outline how much they knew about the *Pacific Connect* Program **before** attending this virtual Dialogue.

(See adjacent graph for results).

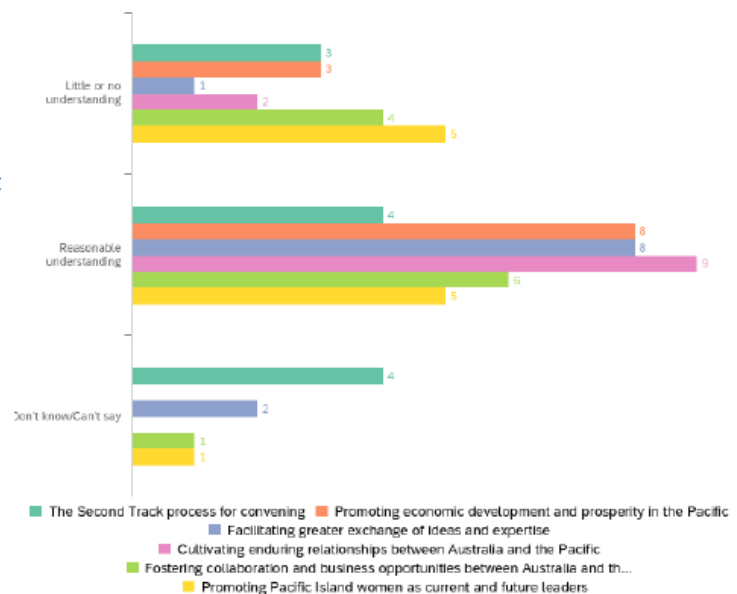
Nine out of the **eleven** surveyed said they had a '**reasonable understanding**' that *Pacific Connect* aims to cultivate enduring relationships between Australia and the Pacific.

Eight participants had a '**reasonable understanding**' of the Program's stated outcomes of 'promoting economic development and prosperity in the Pacific' and 'facilitating a greater exchange of ideas and expertise', respectively.

However, five participants indicated they had '**little to no understanding**' of the program's intent to 'promote Pacific Island women as current and future leaders.'

Participants demonstrated mixed knowledge on the Second Track Process:

- **3** had 'little' understanding
- **4** had 'reasonable' understanding
- **4** didn't know, couldn't say about the process.



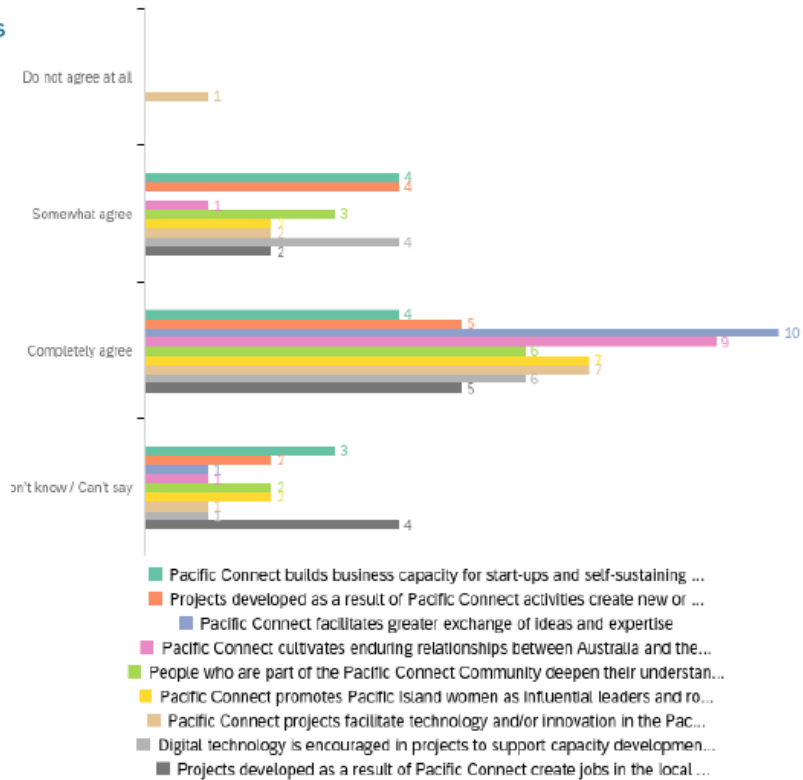
Pacific Connect objectives and purpose

Participants were asked whether they agree with certain statements regarding the Program’s objectives and purpose, as seen in the dialogue opposite.

Positively, participants were mostly in agreement with the idea that ‘Pacific Connect facilitates greater exchange of ideas and expertise, with **10 out of 11** participants ‘completely agreeing’.

Eighty-two percent of participants (**9/11**) completely agreed with the notion the ‘Pacific Connect cultivates enduring relationships between Australia and the Pacific.’

Conversely, participants had mixed reactions to the statement that



‘Pacific Connect builds business capacity for start-ups’, with only **36% (4)** in ‘complete agreement’, the remaining seven participants split between ‘somewhat agreeing’ (**4**) and not knowing (**3**).

Participants were also split on whether the Pacific Connect program assists in developing projects that create new or improved services in the region, with **five** saying that they ‘completely agree’, **four** ‘somewhat agree’, and **two** could not say.

Pre-Virtual Dialogue preparation

Most participants (**64%, 7 participants**) found the preparatory Virtual Dialogue information provided by ICDP to be ‘**somewhat helpful**’, with the remaining **four** participants finding the information ‘**very helpful**’.

Key strengths of the Dialogue

The survey also asked participants to determine the key strengths of the Dialogue. Determinations are broken down as follows:

- **3 participants** chose 'Opportunity for future collaboration'
- **4 participants** mentioned 'Diversity of participants' background, in terms of country of origin and industry.'
- **4 participants** mentioned 'Other', with these respondents exclaiming that 'sharing challenges and participant journeys' (X2) and the Dialogue format being the strongest part

Value of the Dialogue to participants

Overall, participants surveyed found the Dialogue very useful. **Nine** participants found the Dialogue 'very useful' for:

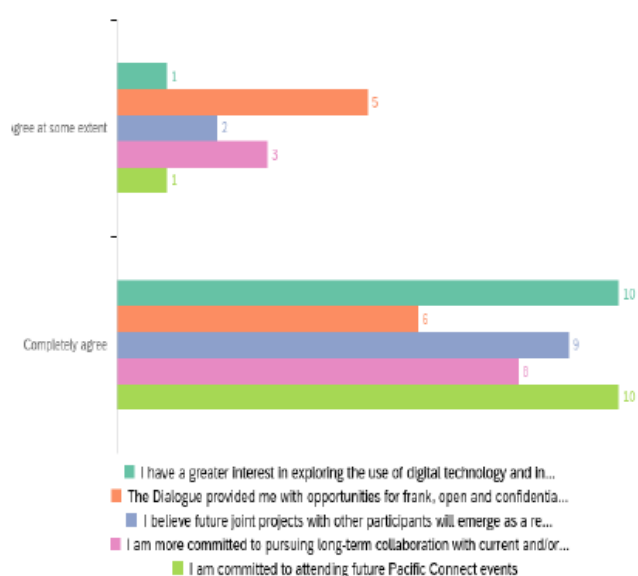
- 'Exploring new ideas, projects and initiatives with Pacific Connect participants
- Creating larger networks based on current and emerging leaders from Australia and the Pacific

In regards to agreeing with the statements that the Dialogue was valuable in terms of 'Identifying future joint projects and opportunities to collaborate with other emerging leaders' and 'networking opportunities with other participants', a strong majority (**64%**) found these aspects to be very valuable.

Two participants found the ability to 'identify mentorship opportunities between individuals in Australia and the

Pacific' and 'Increasing knowledge and expertise on start-ups and enterprises' 'not at all valuable.

It seems that participants of this Virtual Dialogue found many aspects positive, with **10** respondents determining they have a 'greater interest in exploring the use of digital technology' and are committed to attending future Pacific Connect events, as the below diagram demonstrates:



Value of the Dialogue to participants

Participants were also questioned on the Virtual Dialogue facilitators.

Nine participants were 'very satisfied' with the 'local and cultural knowledge' demonstrated by the facilitators, however **one** was 'not at all satisfied'. **Seven** respondents were very satisfied with the 'level of expertise with online tools to run the session'

Views of Australia and the Pacific

Participants were asked to reflect upon changes to Pacific-Australian relationships as a result of participant in Dialogue events.

Reviews were mixed, with **four** participants saying that their views on either Australia or the Pacific had changed, **three** saying that it hadn't changed, and the remaining **four** saying that they don't know.

In explaining their answers, participants replied with:

"I have a stronger sense that the community and organisations are really seeking ways to improve health and quality of life for people, and the way that organisations in the Pacific are potentially willing to help promote that.

"It's [the Dialogue] has opened up a network of experts participating in something that will improve the Pacific's infrastructure and development through technological and innovation advancements."

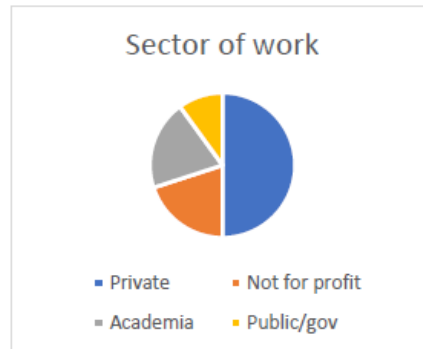
Social media connections

Respondents were asked about their actions after the Virtual Dialogue.

Most participants, as demonstrated in the adjacent graph, did not sign up for the *Pacific Connect* newsletter or social media channels. Many participants may have done so before the event took place.

Participant demographics

The gender of those surveyed was evenly split, with **six** males and **five** females responding.



Respondents were asked to identify their sector of work, and responded as follows:

- Private: **five** respondents
- Not for profit: **two** respondents
- Academia: **two** respondents
- Public / gov: **one** respondent

