

FACT SHEET

Connecting Timor-Leste to the internet via submarine cable

Project Name: Timor-Leste South Submarine Cable

AIFFP INVESTMENT

GRANT: AUD7.2 million

PARTNERS

Government of Timor-Leste
Vocus Group

CONSTRUCTION

2023 onwards

COMPLETION

2025

About the project

Australia, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), has provided a grant package to the Government of Timor-Leste for advisory support for the design, manufacturing and installation of its first submarine telecommunications cable. With the Government of Timor-Leste funding and delivering the broader cable project, the AIFFP's support spans three stages: development of a Front End Engineering Design to scope various cable design and route options and technical and engineering requirements; procurement

support to source a turnkey marine vendor; and support for the design and procurement of the project's landing infrastructure. With Timor-Leste currently connecting to the internet through satellite and microwave radio, the project will deliver faster, cheaper and more reliable internet to communities. The AIFFP's support to the project has evolved over time to be responsive to the needs and requests of the Government of Timor-Leste.

Map



Infrastructure highlights

In partnership with governments and private sector firms in the Pacific, the AIFFP facilitates the delivery of high quality, resilient infrastructure. This project's anticipated infrastructure footprint will include:



600-KILOMETRE
LONG CABLE



LANDING STATION
AT DILI, TIMOR-LESTE



CONNECTS
TO THE NORTH-WEST CABLE
SYSTEM, WHICH HAS LANDING
STATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Impact at a glance

Across all its projects, the AIFFP prioritises lasting development and economic outcomes for people and communities. Its approach is guided by five impact areas: local content; climate resilience; social and environmental safeguards; gender equality, disability and social inclusion; and quality and integrity.

The project aims to support the Government of Timor-Leste to deliver a submarine cable which provides secure, quality and affordable internet connectivity to communities. Its anticipated impact includes:

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Enhanced connectivity can have a **transformational impact** on communities, particularly women, girls and people living with a disability, who will have **improved access** to information, employment opportunities and government services.

Recognising that increased connectivity can also pose threats to online safety for these groups, a regional AIFFP study is underway to examine both the opportunities and risks of increased connectivity in the region. The findings will be used to **enhance economic benefits** as well as address harmful digital communication, social protection and cyber safety issues.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The completed cable will provide more **robust and reliable connectivity** to communities, reducing the chances of an outage in the event of severe weather caused by climate change. Current satellite services can experience latency issues and are susceptible to compromised service during inclement weather.

Once in operation, the cable will **assist governments** with disaster and climate change preparedness.

It will **facilitate** the use of **early warning systems**, disaster risk monitoring tools and post-disaster communications that require large volumes of data transmission and can be costly and slow via satellite.



To learn more
about the AIFFP,
visit our website

Information as of December 2025