

FACT SHEET

Expanding digital connectivity in Tonga via a second international undersea cable

Project Name: Tonga Hawaiki Submarine Cable Branch System

TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE

AUD54.6 million
(Australia AUD35.6 million /
New Zealand AUD19 million)

PARTNERS

New Zealand Government
Government of Tonga
Tonga Cable Limited

CONSTRUCTION

2024

COMPLETION

2026

About the project

Australia, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), and Government of New Zealand have co-financed a second international undersea telecommunications cable, which was completed in 2026. The project was delivered in partnership with Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and saw the construction of a 405-kilometre long cable from a branching unit on the Hawaiki Transpacific Cable

to an existing cable landing station in Tonga's outer island, Vava'u. The second undersea cable will provide a more reliable service to the public and complement the Tonga Cable, connecting Fiji to Tongatapu, and the domestic cable connecting Tongatapu, to Ha'apai and Vava'u. It will also deliver flow-on benefits including natural disaster resilience, and support Tonga's national digitalisation and economic goals.

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:



TONGA'S
SECOND
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSEA CABLE



405 KILOMETRE
LONG CABLE



LANDING POINT
IN VAVA'U




CONNECTS TO THE EXISTING
HAWAIKI CABLE, WHICH SPANS
15,000 KILOMETRES

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 deliver more secure and resilient telecommunications connectivity, as a key enabler of economic growth and driver of improved living standards for the people of Tonga.


CLIMATE RESILIENCE



In the wake of the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano eruption, Tonga's international and domestic cables were severed. The construction of a second undersea cable **reduces the chances of another telecommunications outage** by providing critical network redundancy in the event of adverse weather events caused by climate change. The new cable will deliver **more robust connectivity to communities**, also assisting governments with disaster and climate change preparedness.

LOCAL CONTENT

BW Digital worked closely with Tonga Cable Limited, including **training and development opportunities** to enhance in-country knowledge and capacity and **support local service delivery and maintenance** into the future.



To learn more
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