



**South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
(SWPHC)**



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SWPHC Circular Letter 03/2023

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**To: Members, Associate Members and Observers of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
Chair Handover**

Dear SWPHC Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that Australia has now taken over the Chair of the SWPHC from New Zealand, as decided at the 20th SWPHC Meeting in Wellington earlier this year. Australia and New Zealand conducted a virtual handover ceremony on 23 June 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work done by Mr Adam Greenland in his role as Chair of the SWPHC for the past three years. During this time the SWPHC has achieved many things, most notably, the significant work done to undertake a gap analysis for what the region needs, commencing the SWPHC S-100 journey, the inaugural SWPHC Hydrographic Leaders Program, our engagement with the Pacific Ministers forums, the Women in Hydrography in the Pacific program, and advocacy for greater engagement and participation in the IHO by members of the SWPHC. Adam has been closely supported by his team in New Zealand, in particular Stuart Caie, Jan Pierce and Deborah Frost and I would like to thank them for their dedication. I convey my best wishes to Adam after a successful tenure as the SWPHC Chair and I take this opportunity to reiterate Australia's commitment to the interests of the Commission.

We have confirmed the dates for the SWPHC21 Meeting and a Capacity Building Workshop on Disaster Response, being the week of 26 February to 1 Mar 2024, which will be kindly hosted by Fiji.

I am honoured to have been appointed by you into the role of SWPHC Chair and I am looking forward to working closely with you all, continuing the excellent work of the SWPHC and seeing you in Fiji next year.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Thompson
Executive Director, Australian Hydrographic Office
Chair, South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

28 July 2023