

Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council, Positioning Pacific Island Countries and Territories for the Future.

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SUMMARY

Upgrading the standards of geospatial and surveying methods in the Pacific region is critical to support improved decision-making in matters of land, marine, and natural resource management. Accurate mapping, positioning, monitoring and data availability is of primary importance to our region's economic growth as it has a direct impact on key sectors such as shipping, land tenure, engineering and coastal development, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and agriculture, tourism and more. Of particular importance to the Pacific region, geospatial and surveying information is crucial in monitoring and analysing the impacts of disasters and climate change in near-real time for adaptation, mitigation, and risk reduction purposes. □ The formation of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) epitomises the above statement, as it empowers Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to address geospatial and surveying challenges through a regional, unified, coordinated and collaborative approach. □ The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council articulates how PICTs will modernise geodetic infrastructure, develop the capacity of their surveyors and utilise geospatial information to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The incremental, realistic and people-focused approach by the PGSC to build “fit for purpose” and sustainable geospatial infrastructure to facilitate integrated land and marine administration systems and good governance. □ Narrowing the gaps in surveying and geospatial technology will benefit all citizens of the Pacific, and the clear linkages to national, regional and global initiatives already underway ensure that our tasks will remain relevant for many years to come. □ The role of the surveyor and geospatial scientist to measure, monitor and analyse data associated with sea level rise, and to develop land and marine information systems is now more crucial as it will not only assist with managing the social and economic impacts but also help reduce a PICTs exposure to risk and vulnerabilities related to the effects of climate change

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