



FACT SHEET

Expanding digital connectivity in Tonga via a second international undersea cable

Project Name: Tonga Hawaiki Submarine Cable Branch System

AIFFP INVESTMENT

GRANT: AUD30 million

PARTNERS

Government of the Kingdom of Tonga
New Zealand Government
Tonga Cable Limited

CONSTRUCTION

2024 onwards

COMPLETION

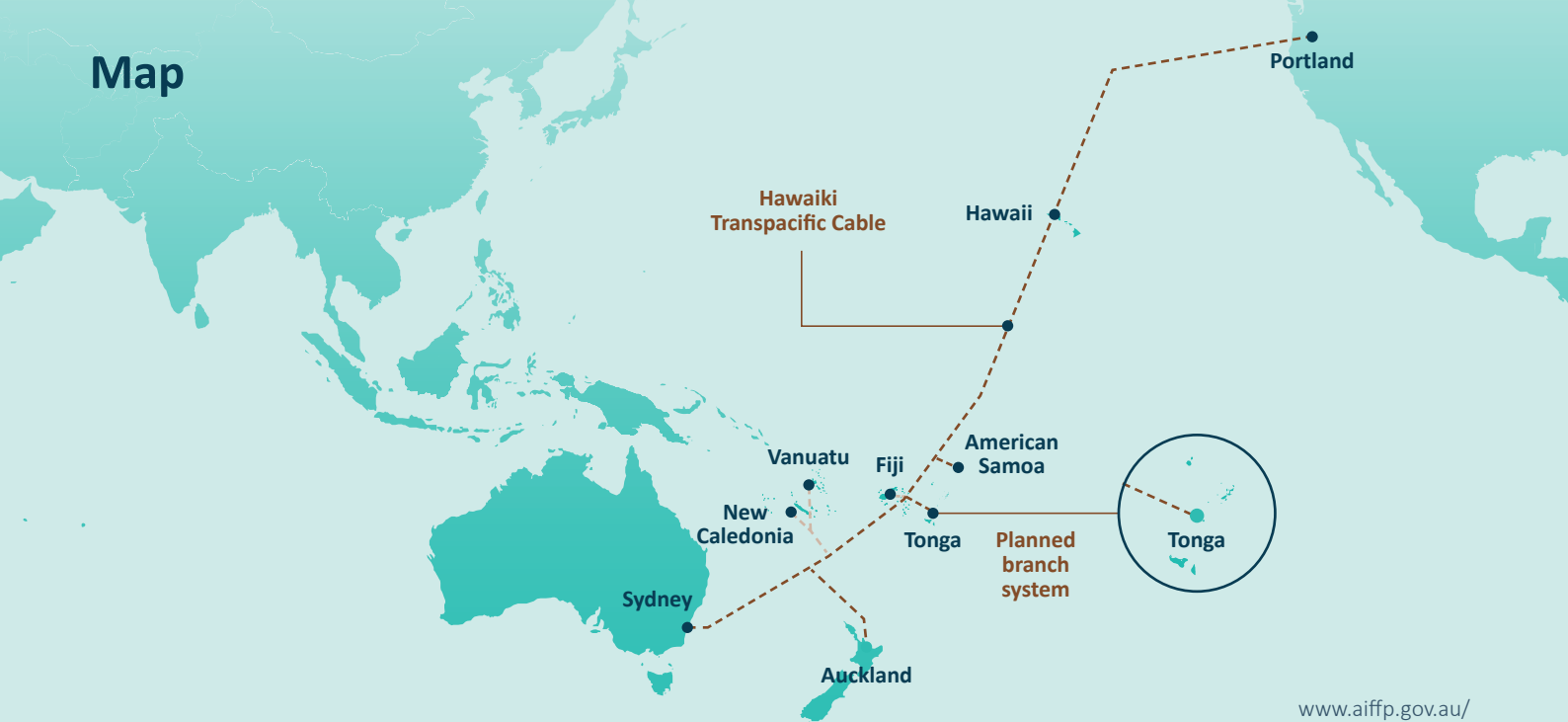
2025

About the project

Australia, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), has provided a grant package to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga alongside support from the New Zealand Government for an international undersea telecommunications cable to Tonga. The project will see the construction of a 383-kilometre long cable from a branching unit on the Hawaiki Transpacific Cable to an existing cable landing

station in Vava’u, Tonga. With completion expected in late 2025, the second undersea cable will provide more reliable service to the public, with flow-on benefits for Tonga’s natural disaster resilience, and national digitalisation and economic goals. Tonga currently has one international undersea cable, connecting Fiji to Tongatapu, and a domestic cable connecting Tongatapu, Vava’u and Ha’apai.

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



383 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 project will provide critical redundancy for Tonga’s undersea cable network, **reducing the chances of an outage** to Tonga’s international telecommunications 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**.

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Recognising that increased connectivity can also pose threats to online safety for women and girls and people living with a disability, a regional AIFFP study is underway regarding **digital resilience** risks and opportunities that will benefit the project and other AIFFP telecommunications projects.



LOCAL CONTENT



In support of **increased in-country knowledge and capacity**, cable supplier BW Digital will work closely with Tonga Cable Limited to support **local service delivery and maintenance** into the future.

Information as of December 2024



To learn more
about the AIFFP,
visit our website