

## Second Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2)

1-5 July 2013  
Nadi  
Fiji Islands

### **Agenda Item 7.0: HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper describes proposed changes to guide the integration of hydrological services in to the work of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC).

#### **Background**

2. At the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Meteorological Service Directors (RMSD) Meeting and subsequently at the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) held in August 2011 Pacific island Meteorological Service Directors agreed to explicitly separate the provision of hydrological services from the basic set of activities endorsed in the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS). This decision is reflected in the report of PMC1.

3. This decision was founded for the most part on the basis that responsibility for the provision of hydrological services at the national level is, in many cases, with separate agencies or departments to that of the meteorological services. In the absence of a clear mandate most NMS's were reluctant to accept the responsibility for hydrological services and the issuing of drought and flood warnings without established and clear responsibilities or the additional resources and skills required to do so. Many Pacific Island countries lack a strategic plan for monitoring, predicting, and providing warnings on hydrological events such as floods and droughts.

4. Subsequently a number of significant extreme hydrological events (both drought and floods) have manifest themselves over the region, causing significant loss of property and sadly also loss of life across PMC member countries. In the wake of these events governments have come to the national meteorological services to request technical advice regarding both the current status of their vulnerability to extreme hydrological events and, perhaps even more importantly, the future risk of such events.

5. As a consequence it is necessary for the NMS's in the region to include and integrate the provision of hydrological services in their national mandates.

#### **Recommendations**

5. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Give full support** to the integration of hydrological services in to the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) and the work of the Pacific Meteorological Council,
- **Endorse** the membership of the Pacific Meteorological Council to include the Directors of National Hydrological Services.
- **Encourage** the collaboration and integration between hydrology and meteorology with the inclusion of a joint platform for meetings to be held biennially
- **Endorse** the adoption of the title Pacific Meteorological and Hydrological Council as the title of the organisation for those services who are members of the PMC.
- **Encourage** SPREP and other partners to develop specific regional and national actions and activities designed to improve the capacity of NMHS's to provide hydrological services to their respective governments.

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02 July 2013