

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)

Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

10, 11, 14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Agenda Item 12.1: Pacific Islands Aviation Weather Services Panel (PIAWS) – Progress and Priorities for Strengthening Aviation Meteorological Services

Purpose:

To update PMC-8 on progress and outstanding priorities of the Pacific Islands Aviation Weather Services (PIAWS) Panel since PMC-7, and to seek decisions to strengthen the safety, compliance, sustainability and regional coordination of aviation meteorological services across the Pacific.

Objectives:

1. Present progress and outstanding actions relating to aviation meteorological services, including cost recovery, regulatory compliance and certification, quality management, training, service agreements, AMDAR and operational monitoring.
2. Seek PMC-8 support for the development of a Pacific Aviation Meteorological Services Roadmap and strengthened regional technical assistance for compliance and certification.
3. Strengthen sustainable financing, cross-sector partnerships and institutional arrangements for aviation meteorological services, including the role of PASO and linkages with tourism, infrastructure, communications, education and training.
4. Seek PMC endorsement of a high-level aviation meteorology contribution for consideration by PMMM-4 and the Ministerial Declaration.

Background

The PIAWS Panel was established by PMC-3 in 2015 as an advisory body to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on matters relating to meteorological services to aviation in the Pacific. Its Terms of Reference require the Panel to follow up PMC decisions; coordinate with WMO, ICAO, PASO and other relevant partners; promote compliance with applicable aviation meteorological standards; facilitate knowledge and technology sharing; support competency and capacity development; and collaborate with PMC members to develop a regional roadmap for phased improvement of aviation meteorological services.

“Following a period of Secretariat transition, Panel met online on 7 August 2026 (Draft Minutes attached as Annex 1) to review progress since PMC-7 and prepare priorities for PMC-8. The meeting recognised important progress but also noted that several regional actions remain incomplete and require renewed coordination, technical support and sustainable financing. The Panel agreed that the next phase should move beyond investigation and discussion towards practical implementation, particularly in the areas of cost recovery, compliance and certification, regional training and the development of a Pacific Aviation Meteorological Services Roadmap.

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Progress and Key Issues since PMC-7

1. Sustainable financing and cost recovery

PMC had previously requested investigation of cost recovery for aviation meteorological services (including State volcano observatory services for aviation which are part of the “MET” aviation service providers.) through air navigation charges. Regional discussions have since progressed, including through the joint meeting of Civil Aviation Authority and Meteorological Directors in Honiara, with Australia and Fiji sharing their approaches. The Panel considered that sufficient exploratory work has now been undertaken and that the priority is to progress an actionable regional approach to cost recovery. Sustainable financing is particularly important for maintaining compliant services, retaining qualified staff and sustaining the infrastructure and systems required for aviation safety.

2. Compliance, certification and operational quality

The Panel reaffirmed that Pacific States require practical technical assistance to achieve and maintain aviation meteorological compliance and certification, where such certification rules are adopted. Vanuatu reported progress towards Part 174 certification. The Panel supported establishing regional technical expert assistance that can work directly with countries over a multi-year period, complementing audit and regulatory functions. It also supported a regional compliance and certification workshop involving SPREP, WMO and ICAO, with appropriate distinction between national regulatory requirements such as Part 174 and broader ICAO compliance obligations.

Operational quality remains a priority. Weather Ready Pacific’s Integrated Forecasting Platform can support aviation observation quality control and TAF verification, while the Nadi Regional OPMET Centre is expected to provide regular feedback on METAR and TAF compliance and availability. The Panel also noted ICAO APAC MET Subgroup concerns relating to the availability, timeliness and formatting of METAR information and encouraged affected States to use the monitoring results to improve their service provision to avoid an ICAO deficiency being recommended. In regard to existing deficiencies, States were encouraged to provide the evidence required to close these.

3. Quality management and occurrence reporting

The proposed regional QMS forum and online occurrence/corrective-action reporting tool have not yet been established. The Panel agreed that these functions should be progressed together, with consideration also given to Safety Management Systems, and coordinated with relevant WMO Regional Association V mechanisms to avoid duplication.

4. Training and workforce development

Progress continues on BIP-MT/BIP-M and related technical training. Eight Kiribati observers have been trained in Australia, regional training has been undertaken in Fiji, ten Solomon Islander observers graduated under BIP-MT programme in Solomon Islands and further BIP-MT training is planned in Tonga immediately after PMC-8. Weather Ready Pacific is also supporting continuing meteorologist and technician training. The Panel agreed that aviation meteorological training needs should be integrated into the Pacific Capacity Development and Training Roadmap 2027–2036, with early curriculum development for delivery through the WMO Regional Training Centre in Fiji in partnership with USP.

5. Service agreements and regional service delivery

The Panel noted the need for formal agreements where one State provides aviation meteorological services on behalf of another. Agreements between Fiji and Kiribati and between Fiji and Tonga were confirmed.

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The Panel supported standardising agreement templates and progressing comparable arrangements for other States receiving services from regional providers, including Fiji and, where applicable, Papua New Guinea.

6. Aircraft observations and AMDAR

The Panel discussed the WMO/IATA AMDAR programme and the significant aircraft-observation gap across the Pacific. The Secretariat will engage Fiji regarding possible participation in regional AMDAR work, recognising the costs associated with aircraft systems and communications. Improving aircraft observations should be considered as part of the wider regional aviation meteorological roadmap and observing strategy.

7. Pacific Aviation Meteorological Services Roadmap

The PIAWS Terms of Reference already provide for collaboration with PMC members to develop a regional roadmap for phased improvements to aviation meteorological services. The Panel noted that this roadmap has not yet been completed and agreed that it should now be progressed as a priority. The roadmap should provide a coordinated regional pathway covering regulatory compliance and certification, sustainable financing and cost recovery, infrastructure and systems, service delivery arrangements, quality management, workforce development, observations and data, and long-term investment requirements.

Draft Terms of Reference for a Roadmap Task Team were considered. PASO was asked to confirm whether it could chair the Task Team, with technical support available through Weather Ready Pacific and other partners. The roadmap should also strengthen linkages with aviation users and sectors that depend directly on safe and reliable air services, particularly tourism.

8. Institutional Arrangements

The Panel's Terms of Reference identify PASO as a key regional partner and provide for meetings to be supported by SPREP and PASO. At its 7 August 2026 meeting, the Panel endorsed the nomination of PASO to assume the Secretariat role for the PIAWS Panel with immediate effect. This is intended to strengthen the interface between aviation meteorology and the wider Pacific aviation safety and regulatory architecture, while maintaining the Panel's accountability to PMC and close collaboration with SPREP, WMO, ICAO, USP and other partners.

Ministerial Declaration Input

The Panel agreed that aviation meteorology should be reflected in the PMMM-4 Ministerial Declaration. It further agreed that the initial detailed draft should be consolidated into a high-level, action-oriented statement, with particular emphasis on sustainability and cost recovery, aviation safety and compliance, regional connectivity and economic resilience, workforce and technical capacity, and the contribution of high-quality meteorological services to more efficient flight operations and reduced fuel use and emissions.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- 1. Note** the progress made by the PIAWS Panel since PMC-7 and the outstanding regional aviation meteorological activities requiring renewed coordination, technical support and resources.
- 2. Request** PMMM-4 to strengthen high-level advocacy for sustained investment for safe, compliant, sustainable and resilient aviation meteorological services across the Pacific.

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3. **Request SPREP**, through Weather Ready Pacific and/or other appropriate funding mechanisms, to support regional technical expert assistance for a three-year period to work directly with Pacific States on aviation meteorological compliance and certification.
4. **Acknowledge** the importance of the ICAO Asia Pacific Air Navigation Planning Implementation and Reporting Group (APANPIRG) Meteorological Sub-group (MET SG) Meeting as the main regional aviation body that coordinates ICAO region aviation meteorology matters and encourage NMHSs to attend APANPIRG MET SG Meetings and request SPREP through WRP and other donors to assist with funding support as necessary.
5. **Request** New Zealand and Fiji through the appropriate economic and regulatory agencies, in coordination with SPREP, Member States, Operators and ICAO, investigate as a matter of urgency a regional cost recovery scheme for meteorological services for international air navigation (including State volcano observatory services, as appropriate) for the Pacific Island ICAO Contracting States located in the Auckland Oceanic (NZZO), Honiara (AGGG) and Nadi (NFFF) Flight Information Regions, respectively.
6. **Endorse** the development of a Pacific Aviation Meteorological Services Roadmap and request SPREP, through Weather Ready Pacific and other partners, to support the PIAWS Panel and its Roadmap Task Team to mobilise the technical and financial resources required for its development and implementation.
7. **Request** SPREP, WMO and ICAO, in collaboration with PASO and relevant partners, to convene a regional aviation meteorological compliance and certification workshop, distinguishing as appropriate between national regulatory requirements and broader ICAO compliance.
8. **Request** that aviation meteorological training requirements be integrated into the Pacific Capacity Development and Training Roadmap 2027–2036, including curriculum development through the WMO Regional Training Centre in Fiji and USP.
9. **Endorse** strengthened linkages between aviation meteorological services and relevant sectors and regional mechanisms, including tourism, infrastructure, communications, education and training, and encourage greater engagement of the aviation user community.
10. **Endorse** PASO as the Secretariat of the PIAWS Panel, working in close collaboration with SPREP and other relevant regional and international partners and reporting through the Panel to PMC.

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11. Endorse the proposed consolidated aviation meteorology text for consideration by PMMM-4 and inclusion, subject to Ministerial consideration, in the Ministerial Declaration and

The proposed consolidated text for consideration in the Ministerial drafting process is:

*“We **recognise** that safe, reliable and high-quality aviation meteorological services are fundamental to aviation safety, regional connectivity, tourism, trade and economic resilience across the Blue Pacific Continent, and commit to strengthening resilient infrastructure, modern systems and a skilled workforce, while recognising the contribution of improved weather information to more efficient flight operations, reduced fuel use and emissions; **commit** to championing and advocating at the highest political, regional and international levels for sustained investment, technical support and partnerships for Pacific aviation meteorological services; and **call** for stronger collaboration among Governments, meteorological and civil aviation authorities, regional organisations, aviation operators and users, and development partners to strengthen regulatory compliance, capacity development and long-term sustainability, including through appropriate cost-recovery mechanisms, and support the development and implementation of a Pacific Aviation Meteorological Services Roadmap as a coordinated regional pathway towards safe, compliant, sustainable and resilient aviation meteorological services across the Pacific.”*