

Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda item 8.2: Presentation of the Governance Structure of Weather Ready Pacific and Way Forward and Discussion

Purpose of the paper:

1. The purpose of the paper is to provide an overview of the WRP Governance Assessment for consideration by members of the PMC.

Background:

1. In 2021, Pacific Leaders endorsed *the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment (WRP)*, which seeks to reduce the human and economic costs of severe weather, water and ocean events across Pacific island communities, by strengthening national meteorological and hydrological organisations and their partnerships with national disaster management organisations. This programme of investment ensures that the Pacific participates in and benefits from advances in forecast and warning systems that should ultimately enable increased accuracy, geographic specificity and lead time of forecasts.
2. Following this high level endorsement, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), with the support of New Zealand and Australia, commissioned a governance assessment of the Weather Ready Programme and the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) with the intent that the Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and their Ministers to take some key decisions on the governance structure of WRP and consider possible options for strengthening the PMC to enable them to drive the outcomes from WRP.

The objectives of the agenda:

3. The Weather Ready Pacific Governance Assessment Options Paper (see Annex A) builds upon the conceptual approach and rationale for investment in the WRP, and focuses primarily on the importance of a sound governance arrangement, sustainability for WRP; proposes options of governance; the establishment of the WRP Programme Management Unit (PMU); describes working relationships with existing mechanisms within the Regional Hub for Meteorological Services in the Pacific and possible investment facility options, which shall require additional work to operationalise, for consideration by the PMC and PMMM.
4. There is great anticipation for the commencement of WRP and it is important that the PMC discuss and agree on next steps to operationalise WRP, once agreement has been reached on the governance arrangement for PMC. These next steps would provide impetus to the commencement of WRP and would include an implementation plan. This implementation plan should cover the key milestones to be achieved over the next few months to ensure momentum is maintained with the possible of target of WRP being operational before the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in early November 2023. Recognising that Leaders' endorsed WRP in 2021, it would be prudent to manage expectations on the possible commencement of WRP.

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Discuss** governance options and investment facility options provided in the attached report; and
- **Agree** to the development of an implementation plan that will outline the next steps to bring WRP to fruition.