

# FOREWORD

The Pacific Community (SPC) is proud to present The Pacific Pathfinder, and is grateful to our staff, members and stakeholders for developing it with us. We are grateful to Professor Sohail Inayatullah and the Metafuture School, who mentored our learning about futures thinking. They helped develop the capability of SPC as an organisation, and its teams and individuals.

We would also like to thank Dr Ray Maher from the University of Queensland's Centre for Policy Futures for supporting us to develop the series of interactive webinars we used to introduce SPC to strategic foresight.

The Pacific Pathfinder is a guide and toolkit for Pacific policy analysts and planners involved in strategic planning. It contains tools to help gather intelligence about the future, explore the dynamics of change, describe our future, create alternative scenarios, and develop and test strategy. The Pacific Pathfinder builds on our Pacific strengths, traditions and knowledge of how to navigate strategically towards a desired future.

Inspired by using strategic foresight and futures thinking to design the SPC Strategic Plan 2022–2031,<sup>1</sup> we have developed The Pacific Pathfinder to share what we learnt about developing a strategy, and the tools we used to do it. By sharing our experience, we hope to inspire others to share their ways of imagining and planning for the future. We encourage policy analysts and planners across the region to use, refine and adapt the methodologies in this toolkit for their own purposes.

Through this toolkit we have woven a basket of offerings for Pacific people, communities and organisations to use to plan and mobilise for the future.

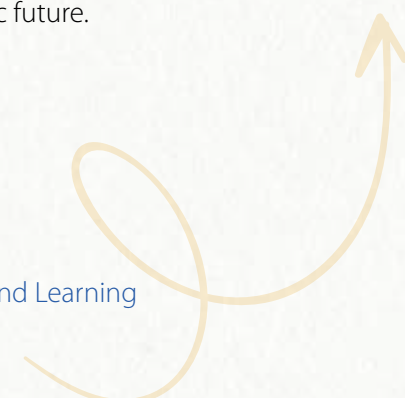
We acknowledge the many ripples of Pacific-led strategic planning that are taking place around the region. The first edition of this toolkit is a way to elevate existing strategic-planning practice and support our growing community of policy analysts and planners.

Like the visionaries, navigators and creators who gave us the rich, evolving cultures we enjoy today, this toolkit is a living basket of knowledge that will need to be continually strengthened, expanded and filled by strategic thinkers across the Pacific. As we navigate forwards, we will always seek commonality rather than homogeneity – our diverse contributions will strengthen the sails of our flotilla of canoes.

Finally, but most importantly, we thank our members, development partners and staff for joining our flotilla of *vaka* on our journey towards our preferred Blue Pacific future.

**Emily Sharp**

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The Pacific Community



<sup>1</sup> Pacific Community. 2021. Strategic Plan 2022–2031. Retrieved from [www.spc.int/strategic-plan](http://www.spc.int/strategic-plan)