

## Solar energy market niue

This afternoon marked the groundbreaking ceremony for the Niue Renewable Energy Project Phase 2. This project aims to enable Niue to generate 80% of its electricity from renewable energy by December 2025.

Just over a month ago, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon. Christopher Luxon announced a substantial investment of \$20.5 million into renewable energy initiatives in Niue. Today, the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon. Winston Peters is here to break ground on what will become a cornerstone of Niue's renewable energy infrastructure.

The new power station, funded through contributions from both Australia and New Zealand, is slated for completion and commissioning by mid-September. The initial phase of clearing the surrounding land will be completed by the end of this year, setting the stage for physical construction to commence in early 2025.

In 2015, Niue launched the Strategic Energy Roadmap, with the ambitious goal of reaching 80% renewable energy production by 2025. Despite various challenges along the way, the current renewable energy project is poised to realize this vision. As a small island nation, Niue faces significant impacts from climate change. Transitioning to clean energy will not only reduce dependency on fossil fuels but also enhance the resilience and reliability of Niue's power network while significantly lowering operating costs.

The Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Crossley Tatui expressed deep gratitude for the efforts behind this project: "I must acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff of Niue Power Corporation, for keeping the lights on. Working with aging infrastructure, staff shortages, and limited resources, you have worked tirelessly, and often thanklessly, to keep the island's power running. This is no small effort, and on behalf of the Government of Niue, we offer our sincere appreciation".

Once again, I would like to thank the New Zealand Government, officials and representatives from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and all those who have had a hand in getting this project to the starting line. We look forward to the task ahead, and Niue's future of clean, low-cost energysaid Minister Tatui. The Niue Renewable Energy Project Phase 2 represents a transformative step towards a sustainable and resilient future for Niue. This project underscores Niue's commitment to combating climate change and promoting environmental stewardship, setting a powerful example for small island nations worldwide.

New Zealand plans to invest \$20.5 million into a new, large-scale, renewable energy project in Niue, reducing the island nation's reliance on diesel.

The project will bring Niue's renewable generation to 80 percent.

New Zealand will also commit \$2 million to the Niue Ocean Wide Trust, which aims to develop a blue



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economy and ensure long-term ocean conservation and climate resilience.

It comes alongside the announcement of an agreement to enhance the relationship between the two countries, and in recognition of the 50 years of Niue's self-government in free association with New Zealand.

The funding for the initiatives comes from New Zealand's International Development Cooperation programme.

Christopher Luxon made the announcements on the first leg of his first trip to the Pacific as New Zealand's prime minister, in a joint media statement alongside Niue's Premier Dalton Tagelagi.

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