



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

04 March 2022

## **JOINT STATEMENT – NAFANUA II**

Samoa and Australia were saddened by the unfortunate grounding of Samoa's Guardian-class Patrol Boat, Nafanua II in August last year. Technical specialists from Australia were contracted to undertake the successful salvage operation, which had minimal environmental impact.

Following its arrival in Cairns, a thorough assessment of Nafanua II was undertaken. This assessment found the vessel to be beyond economical repair. Ownership of Nafanua II is being transferred from the Government of Samoa to the Australian Government as we look at options for disposal.

Australia remains a committed maritime security partner for Samoa, continuing to provide support to ensure the ongoing protection of Samoa's Exclusive Economic Zone, including through collaboration with regional partners. Australia is working closely with Samoa to address Samoa's maritime security needs. Australia is proud to partner with our Pacific family to enhance and coordinate continued maritime regional security.

