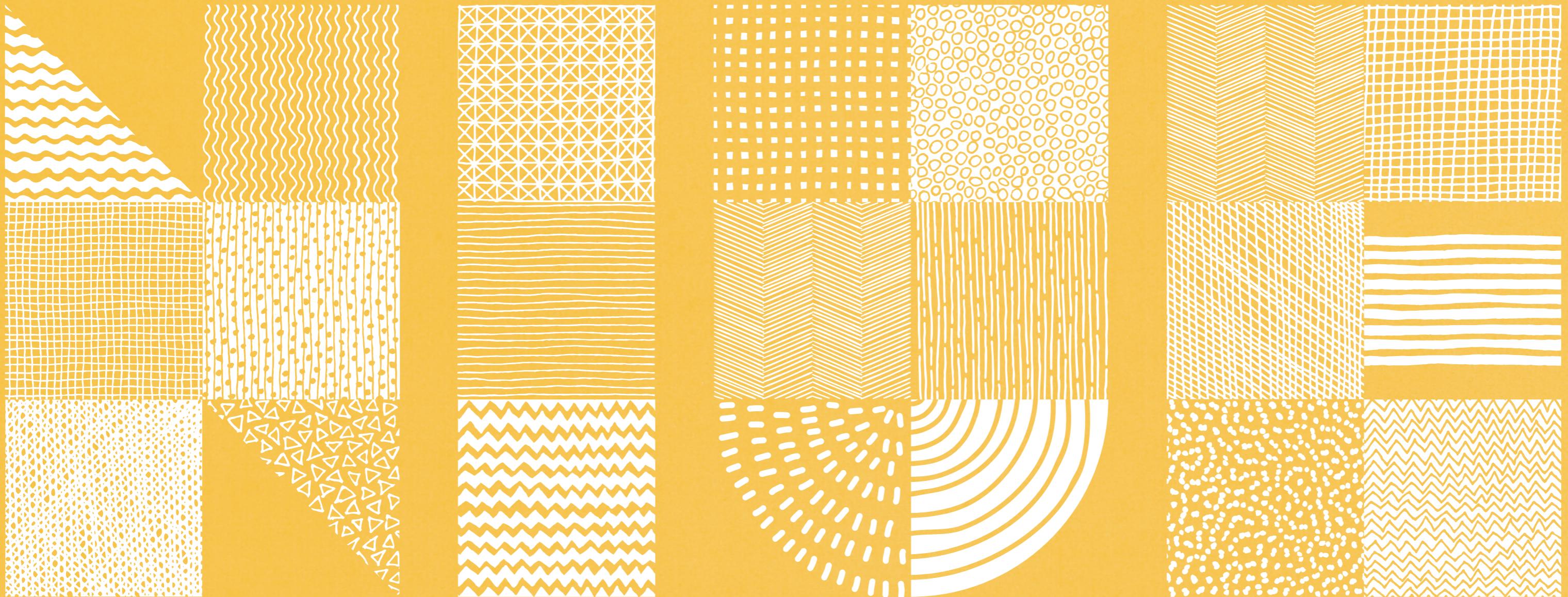


**Niue
National Security Strategy
2025-2029**



Acknowledgments



We thank all those involved in developing this strategy. We would like to particularly thank Moira Enetama and Tāoga Niue for their invaluable cultural advice, Niue villages who hosted the consultation team for discussions, and government and community members who gave up their time to contribute to this document.

Government of Niue



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Image credits
Niue Tourism
www.niueisland.com
Also: Mark Russell (pages 2, 8); Charles Cooper (pages 3, 4, 5); Johnathan Irish (pages 19, 23, 26); David Kirkland (pages 2, 14, 15).

Message from the Prime Minister



Fakaalofa lahi atu,

I am proud to present our first National Security Strategy (2025-2029). This document outlines how we intend to keep all that is important to us and our way of life, safe. Feaki leveki, puipui e Anoaha ha Niue.

Niue, our Rock of Polynesia, is precious and we want to ensure our people, land, tāoga, values, culture, spirituality, resources and oceans are protected for generations to come. This Strategy responds to the national security challenges that affect us the most, laying out actions we are going to take to ensure Niue is prepared for the future.

Our National Security Strategy sits underneath our Ko e Tohi Fakatokatoka Gahua Ha Niue/ Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026. The plan is clear that the safety and protection of residents and visitors, property, and the environment will continue to be a priority. We want our residents and our visitors to live in a safe and secure environment and our National Security Strategy helps to fulfil this vision.

In 2018, Pacific Islands Forum leaders signed the [Boe Declaration on Regional Security](#), committing to develop national security strategies that would strengthen regional security across the Pacific. I am proud to present Niue's contribution to this commitment.

As we celebrate fifty years since Niue became a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand, we reflect on what security means for us in our island home. The Strategy is an opportunity to take stock of where we have been and where we will go next.

Fakaue lahi oue tulou,



Hon. Dalton Tagelagi
Prime Minister of Niue



Introduction



Why we created a National Security Strategy

Our unique understanding of national security reflects our experiences, tāoga, people, ragahau, identity, knowledge systems and culture. **Our vision for national security is that our people feel safe, and our way of life is protected, now and into the future.** We are not immune to the national security challenges facing our Blue Pacific region, and this National Security Strategy (“the Strategy”) is a pathway to protecting all that is precious to us.

When we look out across our land, people, culture and oceans, we see many national security challenges. Some of these are happening right now, while some we can see on our horizon. The Strategy is our plan to strengthen and protect ourselves against current threats and those that may reach our shores in the future.

In creating this document, we reaffirm our commitment to Pacific regionalism, the [Boe Declaration on Regional Security](#), the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), and the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#).

How we got here

Our inputs into the Strategy came from far and wide, reflecting many areas of Niue life, including community groups, village councils, women's councils, youth, churches, the private sector, state-owned enterprises, government departments and our politicians.

The Strategy works with Niue's existing plans, it does not stand alone. It sits underneath the Niue National Strategic Plan and its National Development Pillars, ties into other government strategies, and should be read alongside community documents such as Village Plans.

Where we will go

The Strategy guides our national security actions for the next five years. The actions listed in the Roadmap (page 30) detail the government's priorities, when actions should be delivered, and who is in charge of delivery. These are designed to help ensure that Niue is safe and secure, that it is prosperous, and that our way of life is protected. The actions provide high level guidance that inform specific programmes of work.

The Strategy is a living document. To ensure that it remains fit for purpose through to 2029 we will update the Roadmap alongside the Niue National Strategic Plan refresh in 2026.

Our relationship with New Zealand

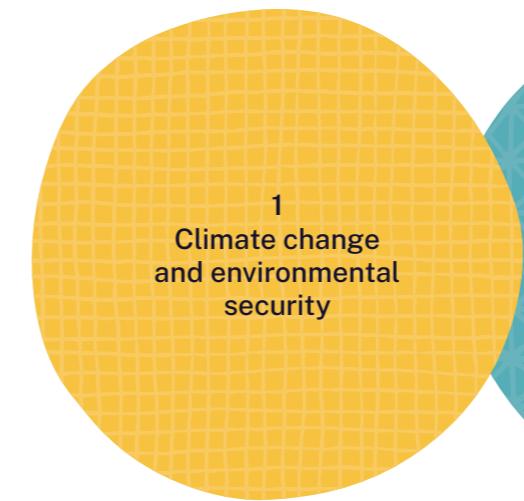
Niue is self-governing in free association with New Zealand – a special relationship founded on constitutional obligations (including the provision of necessary economic and administrative assistance) and commitments.

This includes mutual constitutional obligations on matters of defence and security. New Zealand has responsibility for the defence of Niue, exercised in consultation with Niue. Our constitutional relationship with New Zealand is important to our national security and leaders have committed to continue to work closely together, to proactively consult each other, on a range of defence and security issues that includes traditional security and emerging security issues such as economic security, health, climate change, taoga (people, culture, traditions and language) and human security.

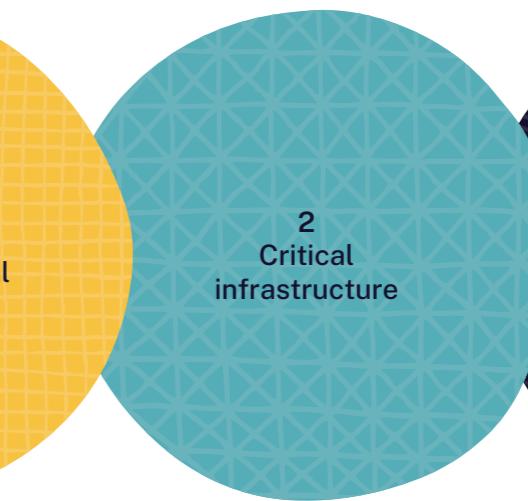
Our National Security Challenges



Niue faces three key national security threats. These threats are addressed in the strategy under three pillars: Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Ahead



Climate change is recognised as being the single greatest threat to the security of the people of the Pacific. In Niue, climate change threatens our freshwater supply and increases adverse weather events on our island. These events could increase risks to human security and could leave our country financially vulnerable. We also have an obligation to achieve our Nationally Determined Contribution target by increasing our use of renewable energy.



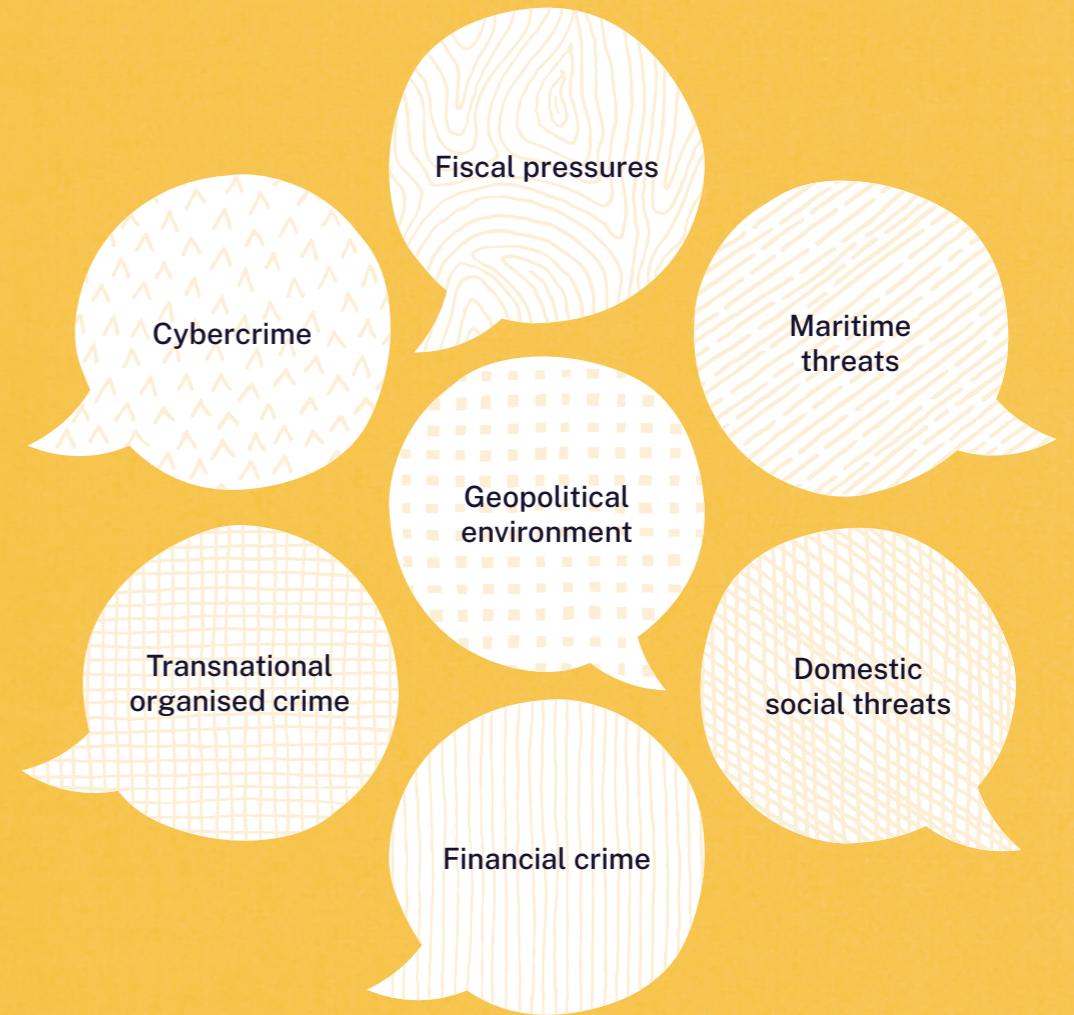
We are at risk if key infrastructure connecting us to the rest of the world, Sir Robert Rex Wharf (the Port of Alofi) and Hanan International Airport, are not operational or fit for purpose. We must ensure the robustness and resilience of energy, water, and telecommunications sectors.



We see many risks, including from non-communicable diseases, climate sensitive communicable diseases, future pandemics, and food availability such as in the event of disasters or supply chain disruptions. We also acknowledge the need to protect our peoples' health and well-being.



Further threats and challenges we experience



Looking within Niue, additional threats which can impact our national security sector include the national security impacts of **fiscal pressures**, such as global shocks and the economic recovery from COVID-19. Fiscal pressures also arise from a reducing population and workforce. At a lower level, we are tracking the risk of scams on our people. We are aware of **domestic social threats**, such as violence or substance abuse, and the impacts these can have on the safety of our communities. We are also tracking **maritime threats**, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our exclusive economic zone.

Looking externally, we note the impact of the changing **geopolitical environment**. Spillover from regional and global conflicts, or even threatened conflicts, can impact us directly, such as through supply chain disruption and rising inflation. We are seeing more countries advancing competing visions

for regional and global orders, and the challenging of international rules and norms we have relied upon, which can have knock-on effects for us – we are not immune to the impacts of great power competition.

Looking towards the future, we acknowledge that many other threats could be coming our way and we want to ensure we are prepared to meet them before they reach our shores. These include **transnational organised crime**, **cybercrime**, and **financial crime** such as money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation.

Other factors facing our small nation include: land ownership, health security, economic stability, workforce capacity, depopulation, immigration, border security and biosecurity. We need to bear these elements in mind when thinking through our response to national security challenges.



Limu Pools

What we will do

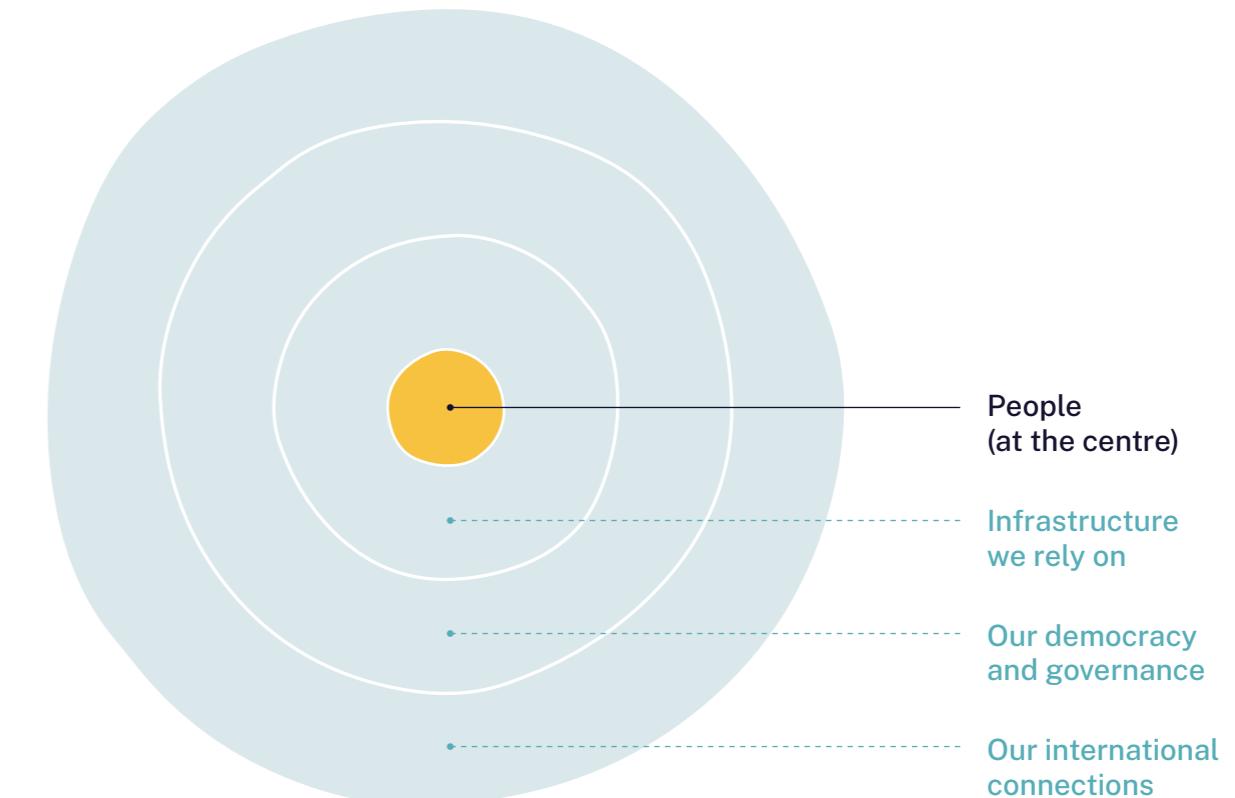


The three pillars of the Strategy are described below, outlining the challenges facing Niue and what we will do about them.

1) **Looking in:** Challenges affecting Niue on the island, 2) **Looking out:** Challenges external to Niue that could affect our way of life, 3) **Looking Ahead:** challenges on the horizon for which we must prepare.

LOOKING IN

Protecting our people from harm



| Niue National Strategic Plan | Pillar 1 Finance and Economic Development | Pillar 2 Governance | Pillar 3 Infrastructure |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pillar 4 Social Services | Pillar 5 Environment and Climate Change | Pillar 6 Tāoga Niue | Pillar 7 Private Sector |

Objective

At its core, national security is about protecting people. As noted in the Niue National Strategic Plan, the people of Niue are our biggest resource and asset. National security requires a whole of Niue approach and our communities play a vital role in protecting threats to our people, tāoga and way of life. We want a Niue that nurtures our cultural heritage, Vagahau Niue, values and identity. We want to retain talent on the island, protect the health and wellbeing of our small population, and ensure prosperity for all people of Niue.

Current landscape

Niue is vulnerable to a wide range of national security harms that occur both on the island and from further afield. Our takalo (challenge) is to come together and protect our people from:

- Negative impacts on our **health and wellbeing**, including the increasing risks of non-communicable diseases, infectious communicable diseases, future pandemics, mental health challenges, cybercrime, social media harms, and social harm such as through domestic violence and wider crime issues.
- **Extreme weather events**, particularly in the face of climate change, such as cyclones, drought, fire, storm surge, and lighting strikes. Cyclones impact our country at irregular intervals and cause devastation to people, properties, infrastructure and agriculture.



- **Water security risks** – we rely on groundwater resources and rain catchments. Our underground fresh water faces potential contamination from saltwater incursion or foreign matter.
- **Food security risks** – the combination of relatively poor soils, droughts, and dependence on rainfall make agricultural production highly sensitive. Supply chain disruption can also impact vital supplies. We are taking steps to ensure our Exclusive Economic Zone allows sustainable fishing and management of our waters.
- **Biosecurity risks**, such as invasive species also threaten many aspects of our lives, including our land and health, and food and economic security.
- **International crime** – such as money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation.

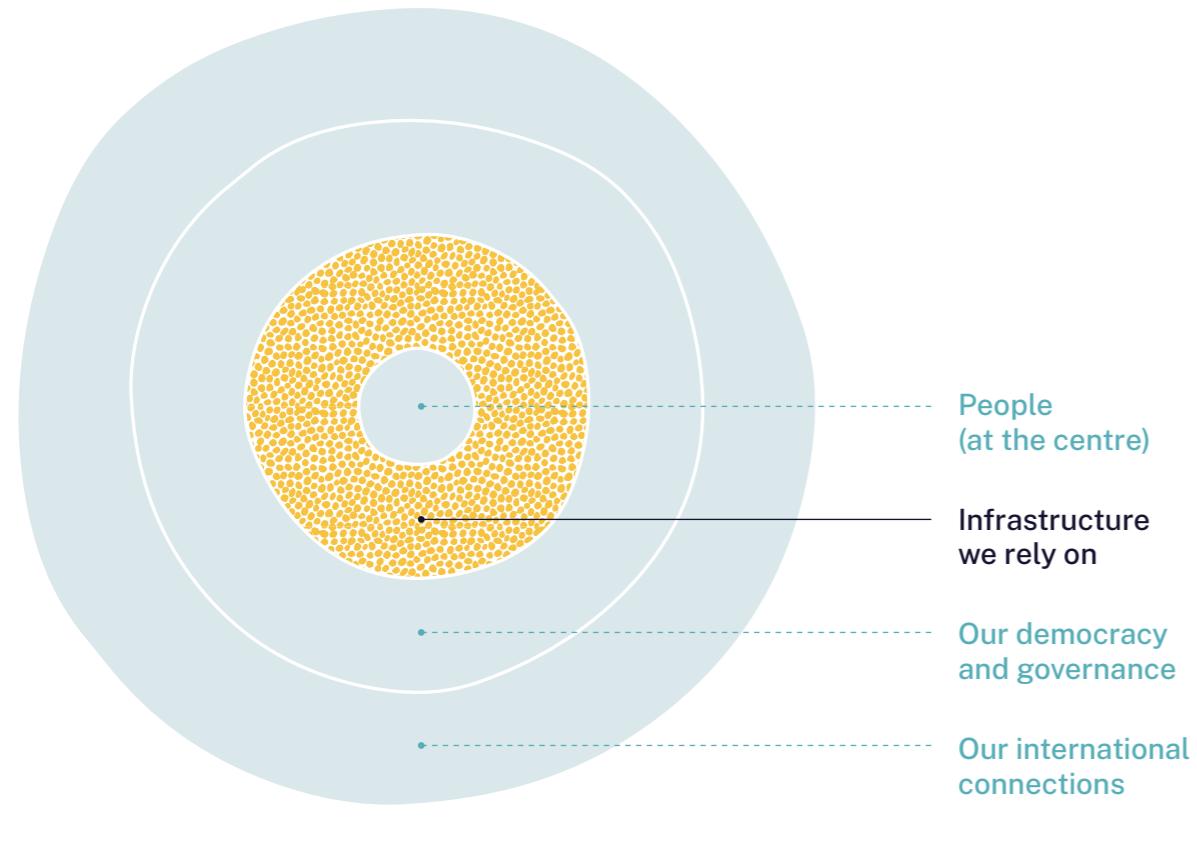
Next steps

We will work to strengthen the social contract between government and society and ensure our decision makers are working to improve the lives of our people. Actions (see Roadmap) focus on a range of areas including:

- Updating legislation to protect our health and wellbeing
- Climate change leadership
- National and community disaster planning
- Strengthening border and maritime security
- Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), and Terrorist Financing frameworks.



Resilient critical national infrastructure



| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Niue National Strategic Plan | Pillar 1 Finance and Economic Development | Pillar 2 Governance | Pillar 3 Infrastructure |
| Pillar 4 Social Services | Pillar 5 Environment and Climate Change | Pillar 6 Tāoga Niue | Pillar 7 Private Sector |

Objective

Critical national infrastructure keeps us, and visitors to Niue, safe. Our international airport and wharf need to be fit for purpose. We need stable and consistent access to water, power, telecommunications and other communication channels, and key services such as education and health.

We will ensure that investments in infrastructure are resilient to national security risks, that our assets are maintained for generations to come, and donor support for infrastructure aligns with our needs. We will implement the vision in the Niue National Strategic Plan, which calls for “sustainable use and management of key infrastructure that is climate proof and resilient”.

We will build a resilient energy system that reduces Niue’s exposure to rising fuel costs and vulnerability to weather events. We will do so in a way that achieves our Nationally Determined Contribution target by increasing renewable and resilient energy sources.

Current landscape

Niue’s wharf and international airport connect us to the rest of the world, for instance bringing vital medical supplies, fuel, and food to our island. These trade and lifeline routes are vulnerable to single points of failure. Other infrastructure, such as our hospital, have maintenance and staffing needs which cannot always be met on the island.

Whole-of-life infrastructure planning is required to save money in the long term. We require stronger due diligence on new infrastructure decisions, for instance, via fit-for-purpose procurement policies that consider national security risks associated with infrastructure planning and providers.

Next steps

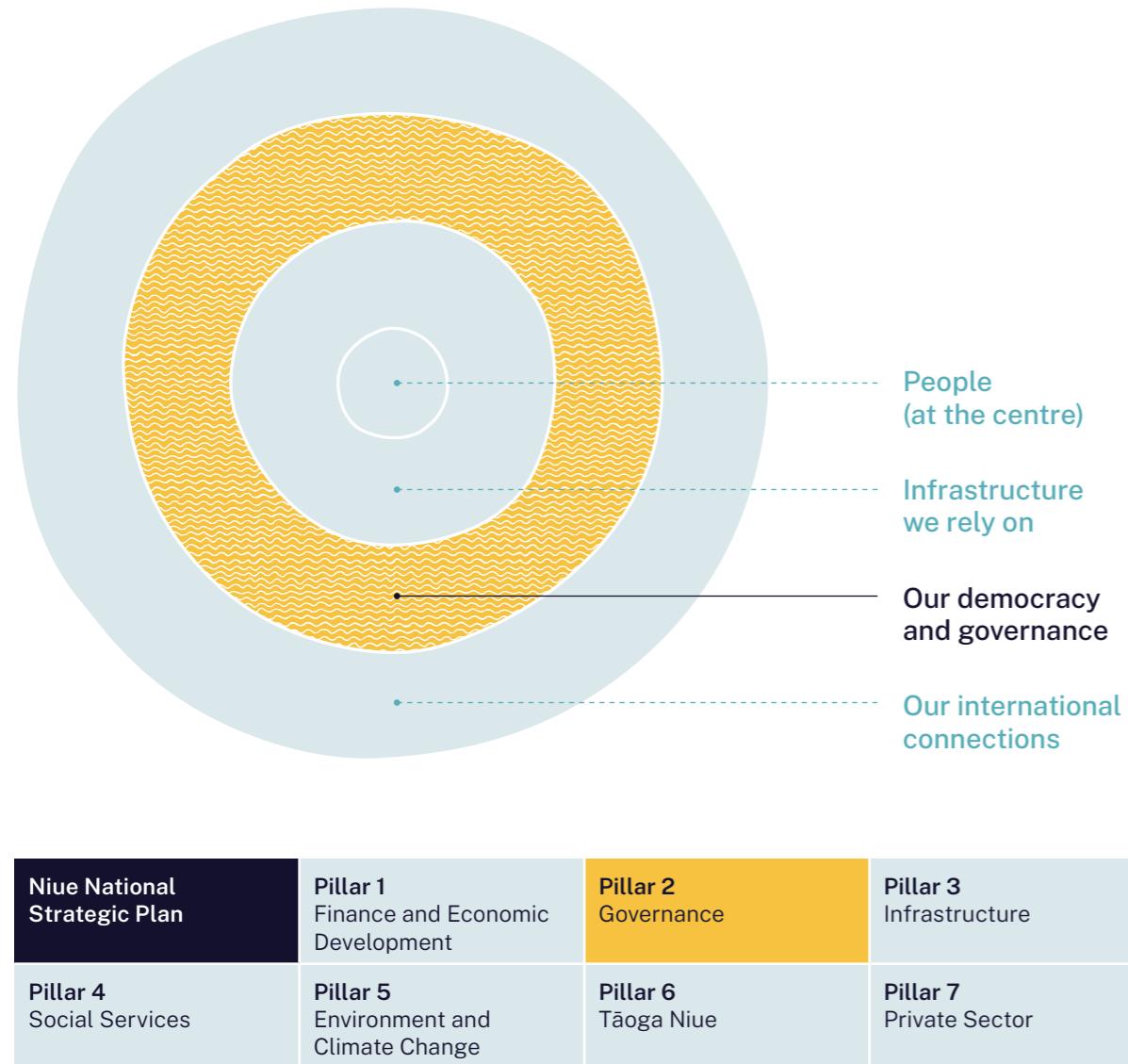
Our next steps focus on ensuring that quality and sustainable infrastructure is prioritised for development, and that it, alongside current critical national infrastructure, is maintained and managed by a skilled workforce.



LOOKING OUT

As we grow our connections with the world, we must ensure that these changes also protect us at home.

Robust national security decision making



Matapa Chasm

Objective

The government's decisions protect Niue's sovereignty, align with our commitment to good governance and democracy, and are made in the best interests of all people of Niue. We will ensure that:

- Our decisions protect Niue's sovereignty from undue external influence or pressure.
- We come together to make informed decisions in the best interests of the people of Niue, optimising opportunities while carefully analysing security risks.
- We exercise strong leadership and oversight to ensure that national security decisions are transparent and accountable.
- Our information and data is protected.

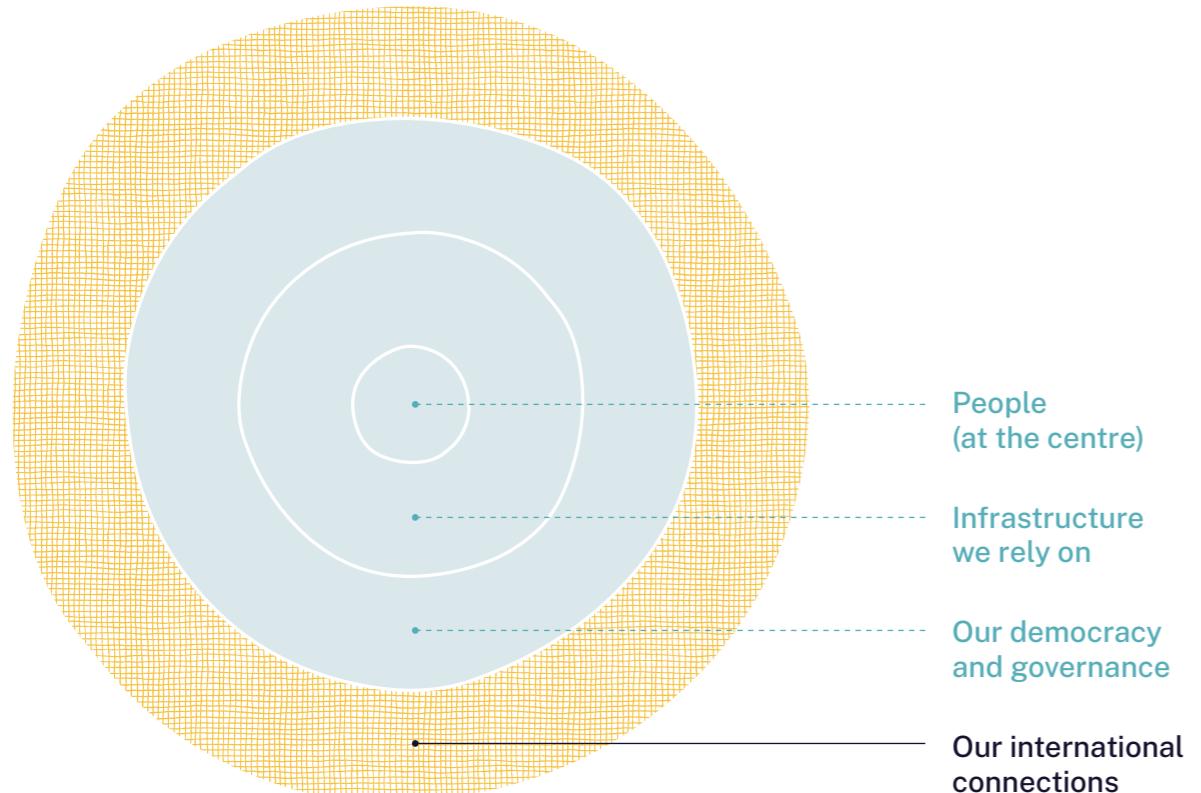
Current landscape

Ministers and government officials take decisions that impact Niue's national security every day. We can do more to ensure that our decision makers understand these impacts and have all the relevant information at hand to make the most informed decisions. Due diligence processes need to be strengthened, ensuring robustness in the face of security risks.

Next steps

Our government committees which deal with projects and proposals will be provided with tools to assess national security risks, and given the appropriate mandates, staff and information inputs to succeed.

Enduring international relationships



| Niue National Strategic Plan | Pillar 1 Finance and Economic Development | Pillar 2 Governance | Pillar 3 Infrastructure |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pillar 4 Social Services | Pillar 5 Environment and Climate Change | Pillar 6 Tāoga Niue | Pillar 7 Private Sector |



Objective

Being more open to the world allows us to leverage increased regional and international opportunities. We will balance these opportunities with the risks that come with building strong regional and international partnerships and will ensure our decisions protect the integrity of Niue. We will also meet our international obligations and commitments.

Current landscape

As we note in the Niue National Strategic Plan, we are enjoying, and will continue to enjoy, cordial international relations particularly with our constitutional partner, New Zealand, our Pacific neighbours, and other partners. We have a unique voice in regional and international fora. We continue to establish further diplomatic and international partnerships.

We are also living in a more contested world in which more countries are advancing their competing visions for regional and global orders and as part of geostrategic interests and competition across the Pacific. While we welcome increased relationships, we want to ensure that partner engagement is transparent, done with our best interests and values at heart, and is right for Niue and upholds our sovereignty.

Next steps

We will continue working closely with New Zealand in light of our shared citizenship and special relationship with its constitutional obligations and commitments. This includes proactively consulting each other on defence and security issues. We will also ensure that Niue's priorities and concerns are heard and considered at the regional and international level, and our partnerships are credible and genuine and are based on mutual respect.



LOOKING AHEAD

Prepared for future challenges

| Niue National Strategic Plan | Pillar 1 Finance and Economic Development | Pillar 2 Governance | Pillar 3 Infrastructure |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pillar 4 Social Services | Pillar 5 Environment and Climate Change | Pillar 6 Tāoga Niue | Pillar 7 Private Sector |

National security is not just about now, it is also about our future. We will ensure that we are prepared to face oncoming challenges, many of which are fast-moving and evolving.

Global developments such as artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies provide opportunities but also amplify pre-existing threats. For instance, while the Manatua cable transformed the way we communicate, it has increased opportunities for cybercrime and cyberbullying which can impact our livelihoods, critical services, and the economy. We need to stay informed of new technologies and their implications, to protect our people and ensure our national safety and security.

As we encourage the entry of tourists and long term residents who will live within our communities and contribute to Niue's economy and society, we will be prepared to manage potential risks including climate change, health, biosecurity, crime (including via transnational organised crime), and excess pressures on our infrastructure and small population.

We will keep an eye on the horizon and prepare for future challenges via information sharing and engagement between partners; awareness raising of emerging security risks; and running training exercises to prepare us for various events including disaster response.



Talava Arches

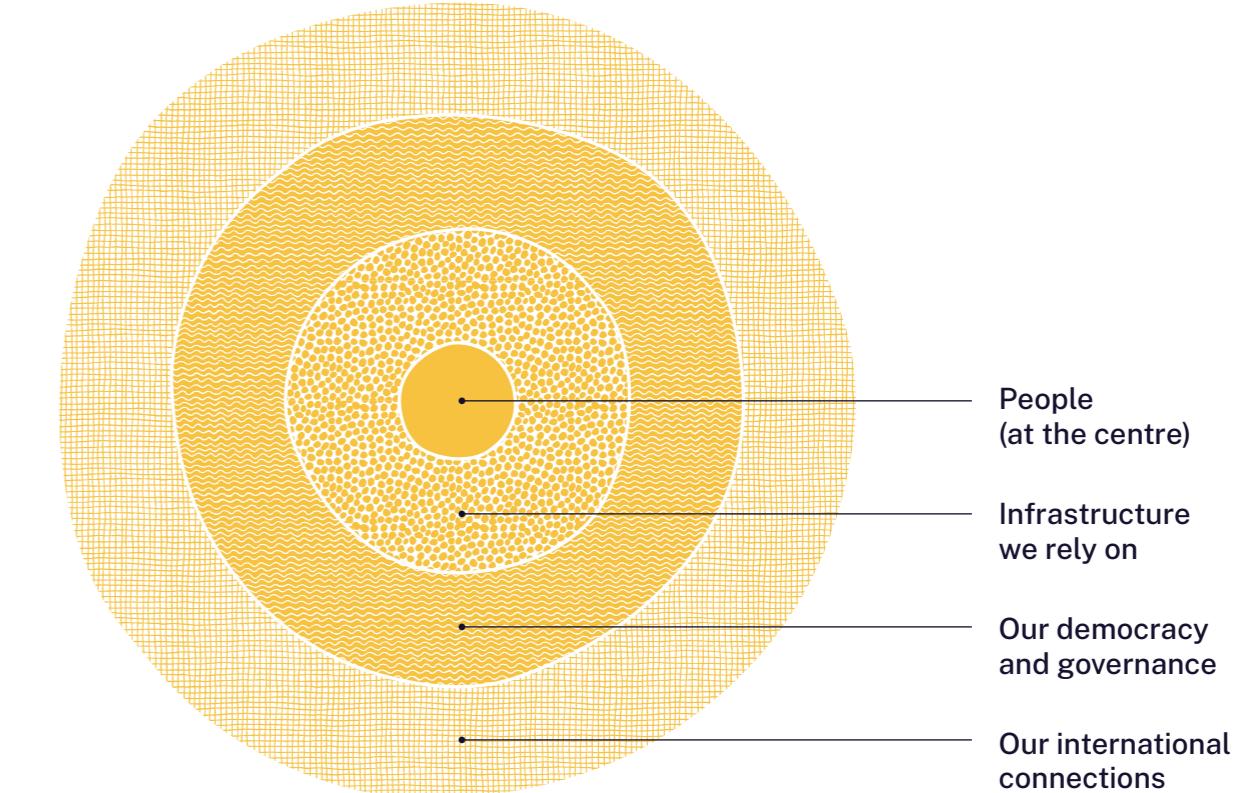


Our roadmap



Kaufakalataha – working together and collectively – something for today and tomorrow

| Niue National Strategic Plan | Pillar 1 Finance and Economic Development | Pillar 2 Governance | Pillar 3 Infrastructure |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pillar 4 Social Services | Pillar 5 Environment and Climate Change | Pillar 6 Tāoga Niue | Pillar 7 Private Sector |



The below roadmap demonstrates how we plan to roll out planned actions; we cannot undertake all actions at once so we will take a staged approach which prioritises our resources and ensures that actions are taken at the right time.

The roadmap layers our planned national security protections:

1. what we will do now (2025);
2. actions that can be done next (2026);
3. actions that will be prioritised in the final years

of this Strategy, docking in with the refresh of the Niue National Strategic Plan to ensure the Strategy remains fit for purpose (2027-2029).

While some of our actions must be done by Niue, we know that we cannot manage national security challenges alone. Many actions will benefit from the support of our partners.

Niue National Security Strategy Roadmap

| Key | | DO NEXT (2026) | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Description | Action | Description | Action |
| DO NOW (2025) | | DO NEXT (2026) | |
| Set ourselves up to take informed national security decisions... | <p>Develop a list of core public sector roles necessary for good national security decision making and prioritise recruitment for these if unfilled. ●</p> <p>Continue to work closely with New Zealand on defence and security issues, including proactively sharing information on national security risks and threats. ● ●</p> <p>Strengthen the Project Oversight Steering Team's (POST) ability to consider national security impacts of proposals. ● ● ●</p> <p>Strengthen the National Security Committee and its subcommittee the AML Officials Committee (AMLOC) and related policies and processes. ●</p> | Ensure our national security decision making frameworks are resilient for the future through policies, regulations, and legislation... | <p>Update legislation to ensure it protects Niue against current and future threats. ●</p> <p>Establish and resource back-up options for critical lifelines including power, water and telecommunications and waste management, shipping and air services. ●</p> <p>Build security capability by implementing and embedding the Niue Protective Security Framework through targeted training and compliance measures. ●</p> <p>Sustainably manage our Exclusive Economic Zone, by supporting ocean conservation, resilience and sustainable development through partnerships such as the Niue Ocean Wide Trust. ●</p> <p>Build cyber resilience, including strengthening incident management and cyber awareness training. ● ●</p> <p>Establish greater climate change leadership and coordination through a Climate Change Coordinator role. ● ●</p> <p>Update and implement national and community disaster planning, management and response policies and activities. ● ●</p> <p>Strengthen border security practices including onboard inspection of vessels and airport screening measures. ●</p> |
| - in particular, decisions around infrastructure - | <p>Keep the Niue National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-2033 updated and share with our partners to ensure Niue's priorities are understood, including consideration given to financing. ● ●</p> <p>Build greater energy security (including renewable energy infrastructure) and work towards our Nationally Determined Contributions commitment. ● ●</p> <p>Develop and implement a prioritised Asset Management Plan to effectively maximise the life and service delivery of public assets, while optimising value for money. ●</p> <p>Ensure procurement policy that is fit for purpose ensures investment and infrastructure grows at a speed we are able to maintain. ●</p> <p>Determine key infrastructure priorities, and work with New Zealand and our partners to develop a plan of action to progress identified priorities. ● ●</p> | ...workforce training... | <p>Increase training for Ministers, Members of Parliament and government officials on public administration, good governance and managing national security risks and opportunities. ●</p> <p>Continue support and training for local media to report on national security issues and/or decision making with freedom of speech. ●</p> <p>Build a multi-skilled infrastructure workforce which can support core operations and maintenance, assisting with addressing single points of failure. ● ●</p> |
| ...that secure our place in the world. | <p>In line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, work with other Pacific Islands Forum members to ensure that partners are focused on Pacific priorities. ●</p> <p>Exchange national security experiences and knowledge, including with like-minded partners, Pacific Islands Forum members and related agencies, and other relevant and multilateral organisations and build a repository of Pacific centred national security information to assist our decision making. ●</p> <p>Work with Pacific Islands Forum members and other partners to amplify, regionally and internationally, Niue's priorities and issues of concern. ●</p> <p>Continue to work with New Zealand and other partners on the provision of humanitarian assistance for disaster response and recovery. ● ●</p> | ...and working with our communities. | <p>Strengthen capability and build capacity within our law enforcement agencies to identify risks and strengthen community engagement so threats can be identified proactively and are addressed. ● ●</p> <p>Strengthen transparency, accountability, and information-sharing between Government and communities on national security issues. ● ●</p> <p>Strengthen Niue's health system and health workforce capacity and capability to identify and effectively respond to health security threats and their impacts, including through supporting research-driven, evidence-based policy development and planning for quality service delivery, and health promotion activities. ● ●</p> |
| DO LATER (2027 ONWARDS) | | DO LATER (2027 ONWARDS) | |
| | Respond to the NNSP review | To come in 2026 when the Niue National Strategic Plan is reviewed. ▲ | |

Government actions: Measures of success for Year One

| DO NOW (2025) | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Description | What's needed: | How we will get there: | Who will coordinate action: | |
| Set ourselves up to take informed national security decisions ... | <p>Recruit for core public sector roles necessary for good national security decision making.</p> <p>Continue to work closely with New Zealand on defence and security issues, including proactively sharing information on national security risks and threats.</p> <p>Strengthen the Project Oversight Steering Team's (POST) ability to consider national security impacts of proposals.</p> <p>Strengthen the National Security Committee and its subcommittee the AML officials committee.</p> |               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a workforce strategy that includes national security focused roles. Incorporate national security commitments into job descriptions. Strengthen information sharing channels with New Zealand and regional and international law enforcement and hold at least one national security roundtable with New Zealand security agencies per year. Update POST documents (including where appropriate, membership, Terms of Reference, project templates) to include national security considerations of projects and due diligence assessments. Build a checklist of national security considerations for security decision making that the committee and POST applies on a regular basis. Develop Niue's Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework and related legislation, policies and processes. | Public Service Commission / Office of the Secretary to Government |
| - in particular, decisions around infrastructure - | <p>Keep the Niue National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-2033 updated and share with our partners to ensure Niue's priorities are understood, including consideration given to financing.</p> <p>Build greater energy security (including renewable energy infrastructure) and work towards our Nationally Determined Contributions commitment.</p> <p>Develop and implement a prioritised Asset Management Plan to effectively maximise the life and service delivery of public assets, while optimising value for money.</p> <p>Determine key infrastructure priorities, and work with New Zealand to develop a plan of action to progress identified priorities.</p> <p>Ensure a fit for purpose procurement policy is in place and ensure investment and infrastructure grows at a speed we are able to maintain.</p> |         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement plans alongside utilities and asset management agencies. | Ministry of Infrastructure and Office of the Secretary of Government |
| ...that secure our place in the world. | <p>In line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, work with other Pacific Islands Forum members to ensure that partners are focused on Pacific priorities.</p> <p>Exchange national security experiences and knowledge, including with like-minded partners, Pacific Islands Forum members and related agencies, and other relevant and multilateral organisations.</p> <p>Work with Pacific Islands Forum members and other partners to amplify, regionally and internationally, Niue's priorities and issues of concern.</p> <p>Continue to work with New Zealand and other partners on the provision of humanitarian assistance for disaster response and recovery.</p> |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider regional and international security matters for consideration at the national level, eg Boe Declaration, FATF and APG, Global Forum. Share Niue's perspectives on national security at relevant Pacific and international dialogues. Develop multilateral and bilateral cooperation and assistance. Implement the National Security Strategy with Niue's position consistently reaffirmed at regional and international levels. | Foreign Affairs Office |
| | | | | National Disaster Management Office |



