



# Media Release

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## **ANZ invests for continued growth in the Pacific**

ANZ today confirmed it would increase its investment to ensure continued growth in the Pacific, including the introduction of new products and services for customers, upgrading and modernising branches, developing its local staff and increasing its contribution to the community.

ANZ Chief Executive Officer Mr John McFarlane made the commitment in Suva today during a weeklong tour of ANZ's Pacific operations.

"This is a very exciting market for ANZ. I'm really enjoying meeting many of our 1,500 Pacific staff, visiting branches and seeing local customers and community leaders," Mr McFarlane said.

"The region is benefiting from a stable political environment and improving economic performance. Growth in the tourism and property sectors in Fiji and in natural resources in Papua New Guinea are highlights. This emphasises the importance of continuing to improve governance in the Pacific as the basis for private sector investment and higher economic growth.

"For ANZ's part, we are the leading bank and a leading company in the Pacific, so we are investing heavily for future growth. We have created the largest network of ATMs, introduced EFTPOS and Internet Banking in many countries and upgraded many of our branches. We have also made acquisitions that have enabled us to expand into new countries and deepen our presence the region.

"There has also been a real focus on transferring skills from Australia and New Zealand to our local staff and on developing local management talent. This is reflected in the staff engagement levels in the Pacific, which are the highest in the ANZ Group.

"I'm particularly pleased at the progress we have made in contributing to local communities. Initiatives such Rural Banking in Fiji where we have partnered with UN Development Program to deliver Fiji's first mobile banking service is an example of how we can make a real difference.

"It is satisfying to be here at a time when all this is coming together and producing great results. What I have seen on my visit suggests the best is yet to come for ANZ in the Pacific and we will continue to invest in the region to bring this about," Mr McFarlane said.

ANZ is the leading bank in the Pacific employing over 1500 people, with 48 branches in 11 countries including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga and Timor Leste.

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