
AUSTRALIA, US COMMIT \$580 MILLION TO SUPPORT PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

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Alasdair Pal and Kanishka Singh

Australia and the United States on Wednesday announced a combined \$580 million funding for the Pacific Islands as they battle China for influence in the region.

The U.S. contribution, while smaller at \$150 million, is one of the most public signals from the Trump administration that it is still engaged in the Pacific it dismantled the U.S. Agency for International Development last year.

The funding, announced by Deputy Secretary of Christopher Landau at this year's meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum in Palau, an increase in China's influence in recent years via grants, infrastructure projects and donations.

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