



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

KGVI GOES GREEN FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026

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Marking this year's World Environment Day, Australia is supporting King George VI National Secondary School to green their environment and reduce the climate impact of infrastructure development in Solomon Islands.

Australia's Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program joined hands with Form 6 students and staff to plant hundreds of trees around the school, making the space greener and cooler.

The tree-planting activity is taking place over May to July to help offset the carbon footprint of the Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program activities, as well as encourage environmental stewardship and hands-on learning for students.

Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Jeff Roach, said small, community-led initiatives play an important role in addressing the greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure developments in Solomon Islands.

"Everything we do, from how we travel to how we build, has an impact on the environment," High Commissioner Roach said.

"That's why it's so important we work together to reduce that impact. Initiatives like this show what's possible when partners and communities come together to care for the places where people live, learn and grow."

The tree planting program is one of many nature-based initiatives Australia's infrastructure program is undertaking to support resilient infrastructure and a resilient environment.

In Malu'u, North Malaita, Australia is supporting the construction of a seawall in front of the new Malu'u Market, together with community-led mangrove and coastal tree planting to help protect, secure and improve the coastline.

"Every day is 'Environment Day'," High Commissioner Roach said.

“Through multiple programs, Australia is proud to support community-led, nature-based activities that increase the life of infrastructure, encourage environmental stewardship, and responsibly address our carbon footprint.”

While KGV I teachers said the tree planting activity was building responsibility and environmental awareness among the students, student Julio Maelanga said the trees would also make their school environment more enjoyable.

“Tree planting supports healthier learning spaces and contributes to long-term efforts to reduce heat, enhance environmental protection and balance emissions,” Mr Maelanga said.

World Environment Day takes place on June 5 each year to accelerate the global transition to renewable energy, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and address the immediate impacts of rising global temperatures. Around the world, millions of people, communities, and organisations participated in tree plantings, clean-ups, policy discussions, and digital campaigns.

Media enquiries: Rabia Sharif, Australian High Commission, 7737294

PHOTOS:



Photo 1 - First tree planted! Julio Maelaga (right) with his two classmates (left), alongside Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program's Angellyn Kilivisi.



Photo 2 - Teachers and students working together during the tree-planting activity at King George VI supported by Australia.



Photo 3 – Over 50 King George VI students are involved in the tree-planting activity.



Photo 4 - Newly planted tree seedlings at King George VI contributing to a greener and more welcoming learning environment

