

Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands

SEIAPI AGM 2026

SEIAPI held its 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) via ZOOM on 26th June. The AGM passed special resolutions to amend SEIAPI's constitutional rules to adopt a revised mission and provide three-year terms for elected Executive Committee members with staggered rotation rather than annual elections for all positions. Following this, election for the Executive Committee office bearers and ordinary members was carried out for the new staggered terms.

The elected Office bearers remain unchanged and are as follows:

Office Bearers

Chair: Peter Johnston (Fiji), Vice-Chair: Praneel Kumar (Fiji), Treasurer: Bruce Clay (Fiji), Secretary: Sandip Kumar (Fiji)

There are four new ordinary members in the Executive Committee with Rob Edwards and Holland Sikou continuing from last year.

Six Ordinary Members:

Eddy May (Fiji), Pawan Kumar (Fiji), Slade Ririma (Solomon Islands), Etika Pau'u (Fiji), Holland Sikou (Solomon Islands), Rob Edwards (Australia)

Since there were nine nominations received for ordinary members, there was consensus reached that 3 nominated members will sit in the committee as observers to provide contributions, but will not be able to vote on Executive Committee decisions.

Profiles of Executive Committee members along with their terms of appointment will be available on our website shortly.

The 2026 AGM also endorsed SEIAPI's first five-year strategic plan for the 2026-2030 period. The strategic plan's development was supported by the Market Development Facility (MDF). SEIAPI wishes to thank Zaeen Khan and Peter Johnston for their efforts in the plan's development.

The strategic plan includes establishing several subcommittees to oversee specific areas such as technical standards and guidelines, accreditation and training, sustainable and emerging technologies and finance and member services. SEIAPI has always relied on the time and energy of a small number of volunteers. The establishment of subcommittees for each focus area will allow SEIAPI to tap into the expertise of our members to help guide our work to promote our vision, mission and values.

Over the next year, our over-arching goal is to lay the framework for SEIAPI to become a financially sustainable, professional regional organisation that has the capacity to

address emerging challenges from the rapid growth in the Pacific's transition to renewable energy.

All Pacific based renewable energy / solar PV companies who are not members of SEIAPI are strongly encouraged to join us as we make the journey to be more active and influential with decision makers, regulators, governments and donor partners stakeholders shaping the solar PV and broader renewable energy market in the region and globally.

Our Strategic Plan Overview

We have adopted a new vision, refreshed our mission and added values that reflect who we are as an association and the work we have done since we started in 2010.

VISION

A thriving Pacific solar and emerging sustainable energy industry, capable of delivering the region's energy transition reliably, safely, and at scale.

MISSION

To strengthen the solar and emerging sustainable energy industry in the Pacific Islands through technical standards, professional accreditation, in-region training, advocacy and knowledge sharing.

VALUES

Quality

 Up to date technical standards, guidelines and training give solar and emerging sustainable energy technologies the safety, reliability and investor confidence they need to thrive.

Industry voice

 SEIAPI's positions reflect Pacific industry interests.

Pacific focussed and led

 Solutions designed by Pacific industry for Pacific conditions that draw on international standards where they fit.

Practical value

 Every SEIAPI activity should deliver something members and the wider industry can use.

The main theme of our strategic plan is for SEIAPI to step up as the region's industry body, led by Pacific industry, for Pacific conditions. Our strategic plan builds on what members know us for and strengthens the areas where we need to be more active. It sets five objectives for the next five years:

- i) maintaining our technical leadership on standards and guidelines,
- (ii) growing the professional accreditation scheme and in-region training,
- (iii) being an influential industry voice in the Pacific energy sector,
- (iv) preparing for emerging technologies such as storage and electric vehicles, and
- (v) building the financial sustainability that makes the rest possible

Our Strategic Plan document is available from our [website](#). You can also view our strategic plan on a page for summary version [here](#).



The Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) rollout

Fiji's Draft Energy Master Plan

The Government of Fiji, through the Department of Energy, in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), held a validation workshop in Suva on 18 June for Fiji's first national Energy Master Plan. The Energy Master Plan is intended to provide a strategic roadmap to guide Fiji's electricity subsector planning, investment, and implementation towards Fiji's energy transition goal of 100% renewable energy.

The stakeholder validation workshop was attended by SEIAPI chair Peter Johnston, and Executive Officer Geoff Stapleton. The workshop included presentation on the draft Energy Master Plan along with the detailed technical work behind it. This included renewable energy resource mapping across Fiji, scenario-based techno-economic analysis to reach 100 renewable energy target, regulatory and implementation considerations, and the financing pathways needed to move from planning to delivery of the country's energy transition goals.

Like many Pacific island countries, Fiji remains heavily reliant on imported diesel for electricity generation, exposing the country to volatile global fuel prices and energy security risks. Currently, 62.5 percent of Fiji's electricity comes from renewable sources, with the remaining 37.5 percent generated from imported diesel. The draft plan's analysis identified is 100 percent renewable electricity generation by 2045 as the preferred planning pathway. Achieving this will require a total investment of approximately FJD 8.32 billion (about USD 4 billion) between 2026 and 2045, while avoiding an estimated FJD 3.16 billion in diesel costs over the same period and delivering savings of around FJD 305 million each year once diesel is fully phased out. The draft plan also noted that while achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2036 is technically possible, it would significantly depend on accelerated land, grid, financing and institutional delivery.

On June 23, the Fiji Government announced some major decisions by the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) Board that will see the program further accelerate the roll out of solar minigrids to rural and maritime communities to support their access to clean, affordable and dependable electricity. The Board signed off on four items:

- i. progress on Stage 1 mini-grids at Salia village (Kioa), Yacata village (Yacata), and Yadrana village (Lakeba) where house wiring is 90-95% complete and the USD 3 million works are due by October this year;
- ii. a USD 319,031 Vio Island upgrade, funded by Australia, lifting capacity to almost 31kW and adding rooftop solar to the island's new cyclone shelter;
- iii. three villages on Koro Island (Nasau, Sinuvaca and Nakodu) chosen for the next stage partly because it is the cheapest cluster to connect; and
- iv. a Korean government grant, via KOICA, to fund one more site yet to be named.

SEIAPI member Island Solar (Fiji) Pte Ltd is currently delivering an 80 kW solar PV and a 650 kWh battery energy storage system for the Yadrana village FREF project on Lakeba island. For more information, see the [Fiji Government announcement](#) and the [UNDP FREF update](#).



Caption: Island Solar (Fiji) Ltd working on the installations at Yadrana Village. Photo supplied by Island Solar (Fiji) Pte Ltd

PAFCO Renewable Energy Project Progress

The Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO) and Island Solar (Fiji) Pte Ltd continue to progress plans for one of Fiji's largest proposed commercial renewable energy projects at PAFCO's Levuka processing facility.

The proposed project aims to transition PAFCO's operations towards 100 per cent renewable energy through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), reducing reliance on diesel generation while strengthening the long-term competitiveness of one of Fiji's largest seafood exporters.

The project is currently awaiting electricity interval data from Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), which is required to complete the technical and commercial assessment.

EFL has advised that it is currently deliberating the relationship between PAFCO and Island Solar (Fiji) before determining its next steps regarding the release of the requested interval data.

How voltage drop cable sizing works for solar and battery systems

In considering cable sizing, we encounter two terms—voltage drop and voltage rise. Voltage drop causes performance loss due to the cable's internal resistance, while voltage rise from the Main Switch Board to the inverter allows export of energy to the grid. The limits on permitted voltage rise and drop are governed by AS/NZS 4777.1:2024, which should be read alongside any applicable network provider requirements. This should be complied with, alongside any network provider limits. Under AS/NZS 5033:2021, a recommended maximum 3% voltage drop is permitted on the DC side between the PV array or DC battery and the inverter. On the AC side between the point of attachment to the grid and the Inverter, a 2% voltage rise limit is permitted which includes a 1% rise from the MSB to the inverter. The voltage drop/rise in a cable is determined by:

- Conductor area
- Length of the conductor
- Current flow through the conductor

And the equation for calculating voltage drop/rise is:

$$VD = (L \times I \times V_c) / 1000$$

Where:

VD = actual voltage drop (in V)

L = route length (in m), defined as the distance measured along a run of wiring from the origin of the circuit to the point of consideration

I = current flow (in A). For PV DC cables, the I_{sc} current (at STC) should be used.

VC = millivolt drop per amp-metre route length (in mV/Am)

For voltage drop cable sizing in solar PV systems, a commonly used cable is a Copper (Cu) conductor with XLPE insulation and cable size of 4mm² (unless your PV strings are paralleled). Let's assume a single string for this as it is much more common, and a conservatively high short-circuit current (I) value of 15A.

We need to consider one final assumption for the equation – voltage of the PV string. Here, again we go for the more conservative value (in this case leading to a lower system voltage). Say the VMP value of the PV Module is 32V and there are 8 of them connected together in series. In that case the length of the cable would be as follows:

Input:

VMP = 32V, No. of modules = 8, I = 15A, Loss% = 3% Cable size = 4mm²

Output:

$$VD = \text{Loss\%} \times \text{System Voltage}$$

$$VD = \text{Loss\%} \times V_{mp} \times \text{No. of modules}$$

$$VD = 0.03 \times 32 \times 8 = 7.68 \text{ V}$$

VC = 11.8 (for 4mm² cable as per Table 4.16 of AS/NZS 3008.1.1:2025)

$$L = (VD \times 1000) / (I \times VC)$$

$$L = (7.68 \times 1000) / (15 \times 11.8)$$

$$L = 43.39\text{m} \sim 43\text{m}$$

Based on the above calculations, any cable length of less than 43m meets the voltage drop requirements for the PV DC cables of sizes greater than 4mm². If it exceeds this length, you should look at voltage drop calculations to find the optimal cable size.

For details, visit: [GSES website](https://www.gses.com.au)



The poster for the SEIAPI 2nd Solar Conference, held from March 24-25, 2027, features a green background with a grid of yellow dots. It includes the SEIAPI logo and the text 'SAVE THE DATE SEIAPI 2ND SOLAR CONFERENCE MARCH 24-25, 2027'. Below this, it states 'SEIAPI WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF INAUGURAL 2026 CONFERENCE' and lists various sponsors including ACSolar Warehouse, REnew Pacific, It's Time Foundation, Pacific Energy, PCS, CBS Power Solutions, PCREE, SMART ENERGY COUNCIL, superfly, EPC RENEWABLES, DPA, GSES, PERNIX, and BLUETTI. At the bottom, it mentions that the 2nd Solar Conference will be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March 2027, with further details to be released in the coming months.

For more updates, please visit <http://www.seiapi.com>. Follow us on LinkedIn - Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands