



# Regulatory collaboration on power sector across borders in the Pacific

6 June 2023





# OPERA OVERVIEW

- OPERA founding members from the energy regulators in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu established the Alliance in December 2016.
- 8 Pacific Island countries, including the Republic of Fiji, Cook Islands, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands joined the alliance and are currently active members under a formal MOU signed by OPERA members and the Pacific Community (SPC)
- OPERA operates as a network, regional hub, and clearinghouse for energy regulators in the Pacific Island countries.
- Hosted by SPC's Georesources and Energy Programme, the Alliance is led by a chairman elected by the OPERA members and supported by SPC staff
- ADB's TA is providing resource assistance and technical expertise to OPERA members on activities during 2022-2023



# OPERA MAJOR MILESTONES

- Eight member countries actively involved and more Pacific Island countries are seeking membership.
- OPERA and SPC MOU signed and SPC is designated as the OPERA Secretariat.
- Regular monthly OPERA member meetings and consultation on key regulation issues among regulators.
- OPERA approved revisions to the OPERA Constitution and Administrative Regulations to enable OPERA authorization in July and August 2022 to undertake actions per the OPERA Business Plan
- Continuous capacity building activities (in-person and virtual workshops and trainings)
- Country supports to the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa.



## OPERA MAJOR MILESTONES (cont.)

- MOU finalized with NARUC to be signed at OPERA Annual Meeting on October 11, 2022
- MOU with Energy Growth Hub proposed and pending review and approval by OPERA members
- Enhanced donors' coordination for Pacific regulation reforms and capacity building (PRIF, USAID and US State Department, DFAT, MFAT and the World Bank)



# OPERA BUSINESS PLAN

**OPERA's Business Plan** enumerates its purposes and objectives which covers the period from 2021-2026 and seeks to achieve these primary strategic goals:

**Goal A:** OPERA will strengthen and enhance the regional capacity in utility regulation in OPERA member countries

**Goal B:** OPERA will promote the independence, professionalism, accountability and visibility of national utility and energy regulators

**Goal C:** OPERA will develop its regional and international outreach and visibility with a communication strategy and action plan



# OPERA 2022-2023 AREAS FOR SUPPORT

- Strengthen the regulation of power utilities to promote clean energy technologies that will help decarbonize Pacific economies and achieve their respective national climate targets;
- Support preparation of regulatory reforms to ensure good governance and to facilitate market-based incentives for attracting private participation in the energy sector; and
- Raise awareness and identify regional issues and challenges in attracting private investment in the energy sector, including the use of public-private partnership transparency frameworks to enable a more efficient and transparently regulated power sector.



Thank you

