
AUSTRALIA BOOSTS POLICE SUPPORT FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS AMID RIVALRY WITH CHINA

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Australia will provide over \$100 million to help the Solomon Islands, which also has security ties with China, expand its police force so it can reduce its reliance on external partners, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Friday.

The U.S. and Australia have been racing to limit China's security ambitions in the Pacific Islands ever since the Solomon Islands' then-leader, Manasseh Sogavare, signed a security deal with Beijing in 2022.

Albanese told reporters in Canberra the four-year, A\$190 million (\$118 million) commitment showed Australia was the Solomon Islands' "security partner of choice".

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