JOINT CONSULTATION REPORT

The shared constitutional record of the road from the 2019 Referendum to the National Parliament

WHY THIS DOCUMENT MATTERS

For the first time, both Governments have placed the history, consultations, positions, agreements and remaining disagreement in one jointly prepared record under Section 342(1) of the Constitution.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNEY RECORDED



WHAT THE JCR DOES

1. Fulfils the joint consultation requirement in Section 342(1) and informs Parliament's consideration under Section 342(2).
2. Records the crisis, the peace process, the BPA's three pillars, the referendum and the consultations from 2021 to 2026.
3. Sets out the ABG Final Position and the National Government Position without merging them into a false consensus.
4. Preserves the principal instruments in a single historical record, including the Melanesian Framework and JSB resolutions.

WHAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREED

- Affirming decision: The MF will guide a transitional phase that gives practical effect to Bougainville's legitimate aspiration for Independence while respecting Parliament, the BPA and Part XIV.
- Shared mechanism: Both Governments will consult, sequence and implement the pathway peacefully, lawfully and with mutual respect.
- Self-government: Following an affirming decision, an ABG declaration begins a transition in which Section 289 powers may be jointly exercised, shared or delegated.
- Constitutional completion: Adoption of the JCR concludes the Section 342(1) consultation. Parliament's final decision, together with adoption, concludes its stated Section 342 responsibilities.

POSITIONS RECORDED, NOT MERGED

AUTONOMOUS BOUGAINVILLE GOVERNMENT

The Final Position proposes preparation to 1 September 2027, self-government from 1 September 2027 to 2030, and Independence in 2030. It links this pathway to peace, stability, progressive authority and economic sustainability.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The National Government identifies the MF as the preferred pathway following an affirming decision. It also records a proposed non-affirming pathway based on autonomy, governance and fiscal milestones, continued consultation, and possible later reconsideration by Parliament.

THE ONE EXPLICIT AREA OF DISAGREEMENT

The two Technical Working Groups did not agree to discuss a pathway responding to a non-affirming decision by the National Parliament.

HISTORICAL VALUE

The JCR turns years of contested negotiation into a shared official record. It preserves difference while establishing what the Parties achieved together.

Source: Final Agreed Joint Consultation Report, endorsed by the Joint Supervisory Body on 5 August 2026. This sheet is an explanatory summary; the endorsed JCR remains authoritative.