MELANESIAN FRAMEWORK

The agreed pathway following an affirmative decision by the National Parliament on the Referendum Results

THE AGREED POLITICAL PURPOSE

To guide Bougainville from autonomy, through a transitional phase of self-government, toward Independence and an enduring relationship between Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

THE PATHWAY

1 — Affirming decision
Parliament agrees to the Referendum Results

2 — Self-government
At or soon after 1 September 2027

3 — Phased transition
Section 290 drawdown and agreed treatment of Section 289 powers

4 — Independence
Subject to Parliament's final decision and joint readiness determination

5 — Future relationship
Cooperation may be secured through a Treaty of Friendship

HOW AUTHORITY CAN EVOLVE

- **Existing authority** — Immediate drawdown where powers already exist
- **Delegated authority** — Bougainville exercises an agreed function during transition
- **Shared authority** — Both Governments jointly exercise or manage a function
- **Interim authority** — A bridge where full assumption is not yet feasible
- **Full assumption** — Transfer when jointly agreed conditions or a date are met

Some powers may be reserved for final status arrangements. Section 289 functions may be unbundled and treated differently at different stages.

READINESS IS SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

1. **Policy** — A sufficiently clear basis for action
2. **Legal and legislative** — Authority and required instruments identified
3. **Institutional** — Capable bodies, people and systems
4. **Financial and economic** — Sustainable funding and a revenue raising regime
5. **Services and public welfare** — Continuity, livelihoods, dignity and security protected

The criteria build confidence and guide preparation. The Framework says they should not become rigid obstacles or devices for delay.

IMPLEMENTATION ARCHITECTURE

POLITICAL DIRECTION	SECTOR PLANNING	READINESS AND SEQUENCING	DELIVERY	PUBLIC ASSURANCE
Joint Supervisory Body	Joint Sector Oversight Committees	Joint Central Agencies Transfer Implementation Committee	Project Implementation Teams	Impartial Monitoring Body

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL GUARDRAIL

The MF is an authoritative joint political and procedural framework. By itself it does not amend the Constitution, transfer sovereign powers, or create new legal obligations. Each step requiring legal action must follow the procedures required by law.

WHY IT IS HISTORIC

The Framework converts political difference into an agreed method for peaceful transition. It joins democratic choice, constitutional responsibility, shared readiness and an enduring Melanesian relationship.

Source: Melanesian Framework, endorsed by the Joint Supervisory Body on 5 August 2026. This sheet is an explanatory summary; the endorsed Framework remains authoritative.