
AUSTRALIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA EYE DEFENCE TREATY AS CHINA WOOS REGION'S ISLAND NATIONS

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The Straits Times (20 February 2025)

Australia said on Feb 20 it will strike a defence treaty with Papua New Guinea, bolstering ties with a Pacific state that has been courted persistently by China.

The historically close Pacific nations said in a joint statement they were committed to negotiating the treaty to deepen integration of their forces and make it easier to offer security support.

This will enable our two defence forces to walk down a pathway of increasing integration and increasing interoperability, Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said.

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