• Australia remains the Pacific’s most important provider of aid. Despite cuts to the broader aid budget, the Pacific has been insulated and now makes up one third of Australia’s aid program. Together, Australia and New Zealand are responsible for more than half (55%) of all aid to the Pacific region.

• The narrative of Chinese aid dominance in the Pacific Islands is overstated. China has only invested 8% of all aid to the Pacific over this period, though it has committed a lot more. China does operate distinctly, focusing on status projects and infrastructure lending that inflate its presence in the region. The average project size from Australia and New Zealand is one tenth that of China.

• Competition between China and Taiwan remains heated. China has invested $108 per capita in the seven countries that support it. Taiwan has invested $237 per capita in the six countries that support it. The average project size of Taiwan is 7% that of China.

• Aid to the Pacific is in decline, having shrunk by 20% between 2011 and 2016. The US, EU, and France, all valuable donors to the region, have significantly reduced their assistance.

• The Asian Development Bank and World Bank are honouring their commitments to scale-up their investment in the Pacific, with more to come as they aim to triple investments over the next five years.