

Debate over Australia's role as Pacific forum chair

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Two of the questions put to a distinguished panel yesterday were 'Is the Pacific back on the Australian government's agenda' and 'What do we want to see from next week's Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting in Port Vila'.

Overall the response of the experts at the Lowy Institute seminar were that much of Australia's focus is misdirected to the detriment to all across Australia and the Pacific.

But Papua New Guinea's high commissioner to Australia is somewhat more upbeat.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Katerina Teiwa, Pacific studies convenor from Australian National University; Rowan Callick, The Australian newspaper's foreign editor; Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea's high commissioner to Australia

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