

[Register](#)[Sign In](#)

A third of Pacific island nation applies for Australian climate change visa

3 days ago

[Share](#) [Save](#)

Tabby Wilson
BBC News



Getty Images

Tuvalu is the world's second lowest-lying country

More than a third of Tuvalu citizens have entered the ballot for a world-first climate visa which would allow them to permanently migrate to Australia.

Opening for the first intake on 16 June, the influx of registrations could indicate that programme will be hugely oversubscribed, with only 280 visas awarded to Tuvalu citizens from the random ballot each year.

The visa programme has been pegged by the Australia's foreign affairs department as a landmark response to the threat of climate-related displacement.

At just five metres (16ft) above sea level, the tiny Pacific archipelago is one of the most climate-threatened nations in the world.

There have been 1,124 applications submitted to the ballot as of 27 June, which accounts for 4,052 Tuvalu citizens with the inclusion of family members.

The island nation is home to 10,643 people, according to census figures collected in 2022.



If successful, holders of the Pacific Engagement visa will be granted indefinite permanent residency in Australia, with the ability to freely travel in and out of the country.

The visa will also provide for Australian supports on arrival in the country, such as access to the country's Medicare system, childcare subsidies and the ability to study at schools, university and vocational facilities at the same subsidisation as Australian citizens.

Entry to the 2025 ballot costs A\$25 (£11.93, \$16.37), and will close 18 July. The new class of visa was created as part of the Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union, announced in August 2024, which includes a commitment by Canberra to defend the island in the face of natural disasters, public health emergencies and "military aggression".

"For the first time there is a country that has committed legally to recognise the future statehood and sovereignty of Tuvalu despite the detrimental impact of climate changed-induced sea level rise," said Prime Minister Feleti Teo in a statement last year.

Scientists at Nasa have predicted that the majority of land mass and critical infrastructure in Tuvalu will sit below the level of the current high tide by 2050.

Future Earth

The world's biggest climate news
in your inbox every week



[Sign up for our Future Earth newsletter](#) to keep up with the latest climate and environment stories with the BBC's Justin Rowlatt. Outside the UK? [Sign up to our international newsletter here](#).

[Immigration](#)[Climate](#)[Tuvalu](#)[Australia](#)

RELATED

Starmer says he regrets using 'island of strangers' phrase

3 days ago | Politics

Florida building 'Alligator Alcatraz' migrant detention centre in Everglades

6 days ago | US & Canada

US says Kilmar Ábrego García will 'never go free' after judge orders his release

7 days ago | World

MORE FROM THE BBC

2 hrs ago

Jury retires in mushroom murder trial in Australia

They will decide whether Erin Patterson murdered relatives with beef Wellingtons laced with toxic mushrooms.



2 hrs ago | Australia

19 hrs ago

Man's epic cycling marathon from UK to Australia

Sam Murray tells the BBC about a few of his unexpected encounters on his fund-raising adventure.



19 hrs ago | Kent

22 hrs ago

Flash-flood warning issued for London's basements

More than 50,000 basement properties are at risk due to climate change, says the Mayor of London.

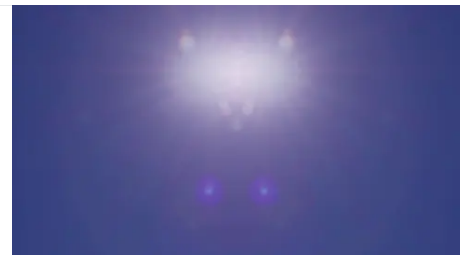


22 hrs ago | London

23 hrs ago

Extreme heat events 'creeping up on us', says expert

The UK has failed to notice how much more frequent heatwaves have become, warns Dr Eugene Mohareb.

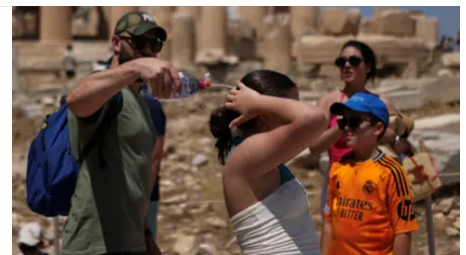


23 hrs ago | England

2 days ago

Southern Europe swelters as heatwave spreads

Spain, Italy and France are among the countries issuing warnings to protect health and stop wildfires.



2 days ago | Europe

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Innovation](#) [Culture](#) [Arts](#) [Travel](#) [Earth](#) [Audio](#) [Video](#) [Live](#) [Weather](#) [BBC Shop](#) [BritBox](#)

BBC in other languages ▼

Follow BBC on:      [Terms of Use](#) [About the BBC](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility Help](#) [Contact the BBC](#) [Advertise with us](#) [Do not share or sell my info](#)

[BBC.com Help & FAQs](#)

Copyright 2025 BBC. All rights reserved. The *BBC* is *not responsible for the content of external sites*. **[Read about our approach to external linking](#)**.