

Pacific backs Australia for UN Security Council seat

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UN Security Council

Pacific Island countries have reaffirmed their support for Australia's bid for a seat at the United Nations Security Council - despite pressure from Fiji.

Australia's campaigning for a temporary seat on the Security Council starting in 2013.

Fiji has been trying to use its influence in the region to block the move, but leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum have reiterated their support.

Australia is up against Luxembourg and Finland for the two available temporary seats on the Security Council, and both countries sent delegations to the Pacific Islands Forum to lobby the region's leaders on the sidelines of the talks.

The United States and China also sent high level representatives as both countries vie for influence in the region.

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN NETWORK NEWS/PACNEWS