

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

20 September 2013

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Can you donate blood?

Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

RECONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADE OF THE LAE-NADZAB ROAD

Alan McLay of the Lae Chamber of Commerce attended a Steering Committee meeting for the reconstruction and upgrade of the Lae-Nadzab section of the Highlands Highway on Wednesday 18th September 2013. The meeting was co-chaired by Roy Mumu the Secretary for Department of Transport, with Patilias Gamato the Morobe Deputy Administrator, and was attended by all the major stakeholders – Provincial Works Manager, PNG Power, Telikom, Water PNG, Lae Urban Local Level Government, Department of Lands, Morobe Provincial Government, with the LCCI representing the Private Sector.

Directing much of the information before this steering Committee were the High Impact Projects representatives - Project Manager John Kaio and Team Leader Bruce Warner. Many of the members have met Bruce already, who has given a substantial amount of information about the developments on this project already.

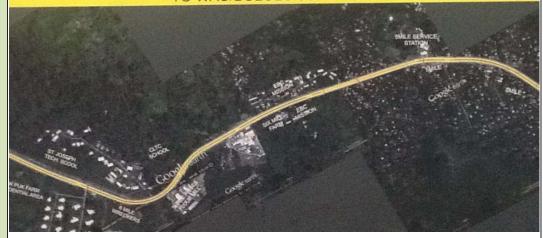
Bruce left a plan of Stage 1 of the project with the LCCI, which is the section between the Lae/Boundary Road junction to the Wau Highway turnoff. This plan is basically an overlay of the planned road superimposed on a Google earth series of photographs.

The following is the mid section of this plan; all 2 metres of the full plan can be viewed at the Lae Chambers Office. Note this will give you a good idea of where the new 4 lane Highway will be located, but it is not entirely accurate. If after viewing the plan you feel there are some necessary changes or adjustments, please pass them onto the LCCI to be referred to the appropriate authorities:-



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS & IMPLEMENTATION

RECONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING OF LAE TO NADZAB AIRPORT - HIGHLANDS HIGHWAY SECTION 1 - BUGANDI INTERSECTION TO WAU/BULOLO JUNCTION





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Objectives of the LCCI

- To promote the business interests of the private sector:
- To further the economic development in Lae;
- To ensure the provision of services and utilities essential to such development;
- To provide a representative body for business people, which government can consult:
- To promote support or oppose legislation; or take any other measures to improve the business community;
- To provide a forum for discussion of private sector goals;
- To pool the strengths of business people so that together, they can accomplish tasks that each one alone cannot achieve:
- To promote the economic viability of the area, so those current businesses will grow and new ones will be developed locally;
- To provide business with a common voice.





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LAE-NADZAB HIGHWAY RE-DEVELOPMENT (Cont)

Basic details are that the Highway will be a 4 lane Road. The pavement will be a 200 mm full depth Asphalt with a 20 year warranty. The first stage will see construction from the Lae/Boundary Road junction to the Wau turnoff. There have been delays on signing the contract, but the go ahead has now been given by the NEC and the contract for the K287 million Stage One will be signed next Tuesday. This price compares favourably at approximately 2% less than similar construction costs in Australia and Singapore. Approximately 60% of the total cost is in the pavements. The contractor is China Railway International Limited, who currently has a team of 20 in Lae looking at Stage 2, which is from the Wau turnoff to Nadzab.

If you do come and look at the plan in the LCCI Office, you will see where there are access roads to all properties, allowable right turns and sections where "U" turns are permissible. There are no cross roads along all of Stage 1. The Lands Department Valuers have produced a valuation report on all land to be appropriated for the road. PNG Power, Telikom and Water PNG are all ready to go on relocation of services.

The initial works will be in 2 sub stages:-

Stage 1b – from the Wau turnoff to a location near Tablebirds factory. Stage 1a – from the Tablebirds Factory to the Boundary Road junction.

LAE ROADS

The good news is that the Lae Roads will be added to the portfolio of this Steering Committee. As most of the roads will still be constructed in concrete, pavement specialists have already looked at the prospective roads and they have developed a pavement specification. Proper testing will be done and only approved strength gravel will be used.

A project consultant engineer will be appointed and will work with the Provincial Works Manager in overseeing the work on the roads yet to be done in Lae. If you missed details of the recently tendered Lae roads, please see the News Updates No. 35 of 30 August and 36 of 6 September 2013 (available on the LCCI Website). There is one correction to the Lae Roads item in edition No.36, and that is that Jawani Street has not been approved for upgrading.



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSI-NESS IN THE LCCI WEBSITE

More and more companies are promoting their business through the LCCI Website. At the moment this can be easily set up and is currently operating as a free service. Go to your LCCI website at www.lcci.org.pg and see what is on offer.

As well as this you will see that many companies have linked their website to the LCCI website. The benefit of this is that potential clients may just hook up after seeing your business when browsing our Website. If of course you run an advertisement on the same page, the potential customer may see exactly what he or she is seeking to find.

Click here to -Contact the LCCI Website to find out how!

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER

Whilst we do run regular paid advertisements in the newsletter, we have a standard offer to Profile your business, as a one off opportunity - free of charge deal. All we need is for you to put together information on your business, what it does and the main contacts. This can be up to one page in size with limited graphics. Send it electronically to the Chamber and we will include it in the next newsletter publication Free of Charge.

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After flying in to Port Moresby, there's only one place you'll want to land.

Airways Hotel offers PNG's finest accommodation, luxury facilities and worldclass dining. Get pampered at Bliss the Spa, float away in the pool or lose
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Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

O'Neill outlines three economic priorities for Papua New Guinea

18 Sep 2013 by Business Advantage

Expanding the small business sector, managing urbanisation and developing modern communications were the Papua New Guinea Government's three priority areas, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said last week.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill



Opening the 2013 Papua New Guinea Advantage Investment Summit, O'Neill called on existing businesses and groups, including PNG's chambers of commerce, to help develop indigenous small business by mentoring of small business owners and forming partnerships and joint ventures with them.

'I believe that growing our small business sector and medium sized enterprises is the only way to make a significant impact on unemployment in our community, and especially unemployment and non-engagement among our young people,' he told Summit delegates.

Regional centres

The O'Neill Government recently outlined plans to create four economic hubs in the towns of Port Moresby, Lae, Mt Hagen and Kokopo.

'Over the next ten years, the focus will be on ensuring the economies of these centres can grow substantially through attracting new industries and supporting existing industries and businesses to expand,' he said.

O'Neill suggested this would require:

- Modern and efficient infrastructure, better schools and hospitals, and more reliable services such as power and water;
- A significant expansion of housing for Papua New Guinean families who will be the main workforce in these economic centres;
- Investing revenue flows from gas development, the resources and construction sectors, into urban and rural communities.

But, he assured the summit, other regional centres would not be ignored.



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Date: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 Time: 9:00am - 11:00am Areas Affected: Flour Mill, Amalgamated Packaging, Frabelle and nearby Residences

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Business Advantage article of the week!

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Modern communications

O'Neill said it was important the government and the business sector harness new and emerging technologies, including the internet 'for education and information, and for a more competitive retailing and general business climate'.

'We are embracing modern communication—such mobile telephones, the internet, and even "twittering"—very rapidly,' he said.

'Modern communication can be an enormous boost for business growth and success—and especially in regional and even remote areas.'

Australia's relations with Papua New Guinea and the Pacific under the Abbott Government

17 Sep 2013 by <u>Jenny Hayward-Jones Leave a Comment</u>

There's a new Liberal-National Coalition government in Canberra, led by Tony Abbott. Jenny Hayward-Jones considers the implications for Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

A change of government in Australia always provokes debate in the Pacific Islands region about what might change. Australia is the region's largest aid donor, primary trading partner, largest source of foreign investment, largest source of tourism dollars and its security provider. What happens in Australia matters to the region and nowhere more so than in Australia's nearest neighbour, PNG.

In the case of PNG, we know quite a lot about what the newly-elected Abbott government intends to do.

New foreign minister

Foreign Minister-designate Julie Bishop has distinguished herself as Shadow Minister by focusing on understanding the dynamics of Australia's nearest neighbour.

She believes the relationship with PNG to be one of Australia's top foreign policy priorities. She supports the aid program but wants to put a bigger focus on the trade and investment elements of the relationship. She will seek to work closely with business. She is likely to visit Papua New Guinea more often than her predecessors.

Prime Minister-elect Tony Abbott <u>telephoned</u> PNG's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill just days after his election victory, which is a good start.

Fiji sanctions to be reviewed

In the case of Fiji, the new government has said it will review the effectiveness of the Fiji sanctions regime and work with regional partners to negotiate with Fiji government to promote electoral reform. It wants to work with Fiji to normalise relations as soon as possible.

Under the Gillard Government, Australia provided assistance for the constitutional consultation process and introduced flexibility to the administration of sanctions on government officials travelling to Australia on official business

It now seems certain that asylum seekers will continue to be sent to Manus in PNG.





Continued - Business Advantage article of the week!

PNG and the Pacific under the Abbott Government (Cont)

With the promulgation of a new Fiji constitution, the time may be right to make another overture to Suva. Julie Bishop should work with counterpart ministers in the region and seek an early meeting with her Fiji counterpart, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, to negotiate the terms of a new-look relationship. This might include, for instance, an attractive package of election preparation assistance and invitations to Fiji officials to visit Australia in return for Fiji's approval of a new Australian High Commissioner.

The success of any new Australian approach, however, ultimately rests with Fiji Prime Minister Bainimarama, who has welcomed the election of the Abbott government.

Asylum seekers and aid budget cuts

For the region as a whole, two new policies—the Rudd government's Regional Resettlement Arrangement with PNG and Nauru and the Coalition's own aid <u>budget cut announcements</u>—have the potential to cloud what should be a story of continuity and expansion in the new Australian government's approach to relations with Pacific Island countries.

It now seems certain that asylum seekers will continue to be sent to Manus in PNG. The Abbott government will need to address some of the concerns raised by the community on Manus and local businesses who have grievances about the implementation of the arrangement.



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PNG REPORT

The latest June/July edition of PNG Report is available for collection from the LCCI Office or by booking a copy with Jenna on 4722340

As part of our 50th year anniversary Ela Motors Lae are holding a mini Expo this Saturday 21st September 2013 at our dealership on Milford haven road.

Ela Motors

Your First Choice

There will be a free sausage sizzle & refreshments stand, lucky door prizes and one major prize give away for any purchase made on Saturday 21st September 2013.

As part of our commitment to supporting the community we will be accepting coin donations at the sausage sizzle stand, Ela Motors will match donations kina for kina with all proceeds going to City Mission to assist with their program to help disadvantaged children in Lae.

The new look RAV4 & Hino 300 will be on display as well as many other products in our range; Yamaha, Toyota, Hino, Genuine Parts & Accessories.

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Continued - Business Advantage article of the week!

Australia's relations with PNG and the Pacific under the Abbott Government (Cont)

Julie Bishop has talked about introducing an aid-for-trade focus to the aid program and working more closely with business in implementing the aid program.

The government's pre-election plan to erect <u>a tent city on Nauru</u> to house asylum seekers appears likely to meet local opposition as the Nauru government is keen to limit its asylum seeker intake to families.

The new government has yet to specify the targets of its projected cuts to its aid program. If its estimates were correct, \$656 million in savings has to be found from the current financial year's commitments.

Treasurer-designate Joe Hockey has suggested cuts might come from aid to multilateral organisations, which may mean country programs in PNG and the Pacific will be protected. But a good proportion of Australian aid to multilateral organisations like the United Nations, World Bank and Asian Development Bank is spent in the Pacific Islands, so they may still feel the impact of cuts.

Julie Bishop has talked about introducing an aid-for-trade focus to the aid program and working more closely with business in implementing the aid program. She may support the extension and expansion of the Enterprise Challenge Fund, or a similar approach that links the aid program to business across the Pacific Islands region.

'Partner of choice'

Bishop is also committed to ensuring Australia is the 'partner of choice' for Pacific Island countries. She is concerned that other countries seem to attract more recognition from Pacific Island countries than Australia does, despite their smaller contributions.

The best way for the Abbott government to address its concerns about the poor recognition of Australia's contributions to the region is to work with China and Pacific Island countries. Pacific Island countries often credit China for being more flexible and generous than traditional donors in the aid it delivers in the Pacific. This perception has the potential to challenge Australia's ability to shape developments in the Pacific Islands region.

My own research has shown that China lags way behind Australia in terms of the quantum of aid, investment and trade it has in the Pacific—China is in no way seeking to replace Australia as the dominant donor, investor or security provider to the region.

The best way for the Abbott government to address its concerns about the poor recognition of Australia's contributions to the region is to work with China and Pacific Island countries to deliver the kind of development assistance that Pacific Island communities want. This will help quell unfounded speculation about geo-strategic competition, contribute to better development outcomes and reinforce Australia's positive role in the region.

Jenny Hayward-Jones is Director of the Myer Foundation Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney.



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Taiwan Trade Fair

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10th & 11th October

Taiwan delegation visits Papua New Guinea: Enhancing trade relations through a variety of trade activities

From October 7th to the 8th, 9:00 to 17:00, the visiting delegates will be exhibiting their products at the 2013 Taiwan Trade Fair at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby.

The delegation will extend the exhibition and their business contacts with a 2-day stopover in Lae on October 10th and 11th, at the PNG Forest Research Institute.

This event intends not only to provide PNG's local SME the unique opportunity of meeting with the delegates in person for negotiation on possible business cooperation, but it also serves as an ideal occasion for Taiwan to establish closer trade ties with PNG.

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TISOL NEWS

Find out more about TISOL at the School Open Day



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OPEN DAY

2 November 2013

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The International School of Lae will open its doors to the community on Saturday 2 November. It will be a chance for the public to look around the campus; see what has changed; see what is changing; and get a feel for where the school is heading into the future. Visitors will be able to talk with the teachers; meet some of the children and find out about the programs on offer.

As well as viewing the physical changes that have occurred, or are underway, the Open Day will be a chance to obtain information about the school's programs and what is being offered. There is an emphasis on the Early or Foundation years of learning at TISOL—so information about the rollout of new approaches to early childhood services will be available. For people interested in the primary programs there will be a chance to visit classrooms to find out

The Open Day invites people to come in and experience the spacious, lush and well-presented grounds. The school as a learning environment has been special to so many TISOL and Bulae students over the years. The international school here on Bumbu Road has had a colourful, successful and cherished past. It now has a bright, exciting and positive future. More importantly, it offers an effective "present" for young children wanting to be educated here in Lae today.

So keep 2 November free - 12:30 to 3:00 pm.

TISOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 2 November

Performances Displays
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Open Classrooms Refreshments

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