

# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

6 September 2013

VOLUME: 36 - 13

### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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*Thank you*

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

## LAE ROADS

This is basically a follow up to last week's article on the Lae Roads. It is important for us to know what is going on as the Chambers has received so many frustrated calls and messages this week, due to damage caused by the heavy rain to the uncompleted roads and those roads that were left out of road redevelopment programs. The traffic build-up and congestion caused by the bad roads has been extensive and the time it takes to get to desired destinations has significantly increased.

The dreadful status of the lae Roads is due to several factors –

- Roads that need urgent repairs or reconstruction – this is applicable to those roads that were damaged when used as by-pass roads during recent construction of other roads e.g. Jawani Street, Kwila Road and Memorial Avenue etc. It also relates to a lot of the roundabouts that were left out of recent reconstruction works e.g. at the Scout Hall.
- Uncompleted reconstruction works – this applies to the work on Bumbu Road from the Salvation Hostel to Kamkumung Bridge (FTM) and Markham Road from the Coronation Drive Junction to Chinatown (EW1). These projects were started to be reconstructed using bitumen and then were stopped, as the scope changed to cement. Added to the Markham Road problems was the incomprehensible allocation of a newly created block of Land described as Section 2 Allotment 83, which is unbelievably slap bang in the middle of Markham Road. The road works was further delayed as a court order was issued on the Contractor, restraining roads works in the proximity of this block.
- The virtual non-stop rain during the week.

The roads that were reconstructed over the past 4 years have certainly improved the road network in the city –

The first contracts-

- Bumbu Road from the Highlands Highway to the Salvation Army Hostel - bitumen
- Huon Road from Andersons corner Roundabout to Boundary Road – bitumen
- Milfordhaven Road from the Scout Hall to the Police Barracks – bitumen and this work is a total failure with the road now breaking up fast.
- Boundary Road – the work is a total failure with no seal being laid

The second contracts-

- Kamkumung Bridge to Unitech – bitumen
- Huon Road – Seventh Street roundabout to Admin Compound – bitumen

Then the third contracts-

- Huon Road from Seventh Street to Markham Road – concrete
- Coronation Drive – concrete
- Highland Highway from Milfordhaven Road junction to Boundary Road junction – concrete
- Huon Road – Scout Hall to Andersons Corner – concrete



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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 ROADS (Cont)

- Milfordhaven Road from Markham to Huon Road (past the Fire station) – concrete
- Sandpiper Road – concrete
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue – concrete
- 4<sup>th</sup> Street 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – concrete
- Malahang Road – Bitumen overlay
- Seventh Street/Huon Road Roundabout

Recently Contracted works –

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street - concrete
- Aircorps Road
- Jawani Street
- Kwila Road

Tendered works as notified last week –

- Consultancy - Survey and design for reconstruction of Milfordhaven/Markham Road Junction to Lae Main Wharf gate.
- Consultancy - Survey, geotechnical investigation and detailed design for the construction of the Independence drive from Unitech Main gate to Bumayong Market
- Pavement Rehabilitation and Concrete surfacing of Milfordhaven Road (1.0 km) from Huon/Milfordhaven Road Junction to Bumbu Police Barracks Junction and Butibam Road (1.1km) from Chinatown Roundabout Junction to and Butibam/Markham Road Junction
- Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Asphalt surfacing of Boundary Road, Buimo Road, Casowary Road, Mangola Street, Malaita Street and Jawani Street
- Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Asphalt surfacing of Telikom College Road, Igam Barracks Road, Orion Road, and Rigel Road
- Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Sealing of Busu Road from Malahang IFC gate to Bumayong Market

We in Lae have become very patient people who have waited a long time to see all these improvements to the Lae Roads. Even though we are currently experiencing a return of traffic problems due to excessive rains, we will of course wait until these 6 recently tendered roads are done. This will see the completion of most of the major roads in the city.

We have concerns about some of the roads and roundabouts that have dropped out of the road upgrade plan. The recently highlighted poor condition of Memorial Avenue & Crows Road, leading up to the War Cemetery and Botanical Gardens has not resulted in any plans for maintenance. These roads were severely damaged when used as by-pass roads during the reconstruction of Coronation Drive.

This and other concerns should be addressed at a meeting of the Roads Steering Committee to be held on Tuesday next week.






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## Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

Morobe Mining and PNG Power Chief Executive appointments confirmed this week.

4 Sep 2013 by [Business Advantage](#)

### MMJV confirms chief executive appointment

The Morobe Mining Joint Venture has confirmed the appointment of Greg Jackson as Chief Executive Officer. Jackson has been acting in the position since May and has more than 34 years of international minerals experience.

Jackson was formerly chief operating officer for Newcrest Mining Ltd, where he was responsible for mining operations in Africa, Australia, Fiji, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

## Where is Papua New Guinea's next LNG project?

4 Sep 2013 by [Business Advantage](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

With the ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG project 'more than 90% complete' and due to start exports in the second half of 2014, what are the chances of additional LNG projects for Papua New Guinea?

### *Business Advantage PNG* considers the candidates.

Papua New Guinea's economy looks set to be heavily reliant on its considerable gas reserves in coming years.

The indications are that a third and probably a fourth train will be added to the PNG LNG project over the next three-to-five years. In addition, PNG could attract investment for at least one or more LNG projects in the Gulf and Western Provinces in this period.

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## Papua New Guinea's next LNG project (Cont)



Hides gas field. (Credit: ExxonMobil)

'These potential projects would have a massive impact on government revenues, because the income is long-term and predictable,' says Greg Anderson, Executive Director of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum.

But Anderson warns that how the income is used it will be critical for the country—hence the importance of the proposed sovereign wealth fund and other governance measures such as the mooted Independent Commission on Corruption.

### New gas prospects

- US-based **InterOil** is pursuing plans to develop its Elk and Antelope gas fields through sales of gas and by a possible standalone LNG project in the Gulf Province if a major operator can be found (new Chief Executive Officer Michael Hession told investors last month that 'InterOil has no plans to be an LNG operator').
- **Oil Search** has teamed up with the French energy giant, **Total**, and has discovered 'modest' amounts of gas in its Flinders and Hagana wells in the Gulf of Papua. But it is now preparing to plug and abandon its wholly-owned Kidukidu-1 probe in the Gulf, after finding only small amounts of gas in late August.
- Australia's **Horizon Oil** and Canada's **Talisman Energy** have aggregated a number of gas resources in Western Province and a number of additional wells will be drilled over the coming year. It is very likely that there will be sufficient gas on an aggregate basis to drive a standalone LNG plant somewhere in Western Province or offshore. In the interim, Horizon is developing a small condensate stripping operation on one of the fields, Stanley, and it is intended that an associated gas-fired power station will provide power for the Ok Tedi mine and the northern part of the Western Province.
- Australian Prime Ministerial aspirant, Clive Palmer of **Palmer Petroleum**, claims he has found a new field in the Gulf of Papua.

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## Papua New Guinea's next LNG project (Cont)

### Gulf Province

InterOil, which has its headquarters in Cairns, Australia, was awarded a Retention Licence over the Elk and Antelope fields in November 2010. The licence covers nine blocks surrounding the Elk and Antelope fields.

Last month, exclusive talks between InterOil and ExxonMobil expired, although the two companies are still in talks to jointly develop the two fields. The Minister for Petroleum and Energy William Duma has been quoted in the local media as saying Shell is a potential stakeholder in the InterOil project.

While the size of the gas reserves at Elk and Antelope are not proven as yet, InterOil's now-retired Chief Executive Officer Phil Mulacek last year told *Business Advantage PNG* that reserves could be as large as 10 trillion cubic feet, giving a potential export capacity of 8.8 million tonnes of LNG over 15 years.

Industry analysts say if the project is between four and five trillion cubic feet of natural gas, ExxonMobil is likely to prefer to expand its existing plant rather than build a new one.

Sydney-based Oil Search signed a joint venture agreement with the French energy giant, Total, last October, a move described by Greg Anderson as 'a great achievement'.

He says it brings an additional 'super major' to the country. Both companies will hold equal interests in each of five licences in the onshore and offshore Gulf of Papua.

In late August, Australian mining magnate, Clive Palmer, claimed his company, Palmer Petroleum, had identified a gas deposit 'off the northern end of the Gulf of Papua and close to the ExxonMobil's LNG project'.

He claimed the field could be worth more than AUD\$35 billion.

Industry sources discount the viability of Palmer's claim, saying these statements are based on interpretation of 3D seismic data and that the actual presence of oil or gas in the identified structures can only be confirmed by further exploration under licence. It should also be noted that most of the licences Palmer holds are in very deep water.



Papua New Guinea's Petroleum Projects. Click on map to enlarge. (Credit: PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum)

### Western Province


Canadian-based Talisman is looking to launch an LNG project in the Western province by 2015.

It has shares in nine licences, including the \$US300 million Stanley liquids recovery project it shares with Horizon Oil. While it had hoped to begin production in late 2013, there have been delays in receiving a petroleum development licence for this field.

In 2012, Talisman entered a US\$280 million joint venture with Mitsubishi over its LNG plans, giving Mitsubishi about 20% shareholding in its licences.



**Business Advantage  
article of the week!**







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## Papua New Guinea's next LNG project (Cont)

Sydney-based Horizon Oil and Japan-based Osaka Gas have formed a strategic alliance to fund a 'mid-sized LNG project' along the coast of PNG's Western Province.

*LNG availability has the potential to influence prices for PNG, 'but where PNG has an advantage is that its gas is wet', meaning it contains compounds like butane and methane which can be separated and sold on their own.*

The project will see 7,900 square kilometres of Western Province's Stanley gas field developed for LNG production, Horizon Oil said in a statement.

Petroleum Minister William Duma has suggested that gas from the K650 million Stanley project will be sold to third parties such as OK Tedi Mining to generate power for regional mining operations.

The use of gas-fired power would displace inefficient diesel generators supplying power to regional projects, he said.

'Indeed, the use of gas-fired power to displace diesel requirements at Ok Tedi (are) estimated to generate fuel savings worth Kina 2.2 billion (A1 billion) over 20 years,' he said.

Horizon Oil lodged an application for a development licence in August 2013 and a decision is expected shortly.

### National Petroleum Company

The state-owned National Petroleum Company of PNG signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June with Indonesia's petroleum giant Pertamina to identify oil and gas opportunities in PNG and Indonesia.

The two-year agreement will see a joint working party identify potential exploration sites, particularly the border region between PNG and Indonesia.

The chairman of NPCP, Frank Kramer, has also said the company is looking at other potential regional partners, such as Malaysia's government-owned Petronas company, for similar joint venture deals. Any gas projects are likely to be years away, however.

### Global LNG capacity to double

East Africa (Mozambique and Uganda) and North America are emerging as potential global LNG providers over the next five years or so, according to Greg Anderson, and could have an impact on prices. Asian buyers may want to renegotiate the terms of long-term contracts, he says, particularly as Mozambique and Uganda have easy access to the region.

If the number of proposed global LNG projects come to fruition, global LNG capacity will double by 2025, according to Dale Nijoka and Foster Mellen, analysts with Ernst & Young.

They say a broad consensus of industry analysts/observers sees average annual growth of around 5-6% per year until 2020, with demand coming from Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

There is considerable speculation in the United States about the extent to which the US Department of Energy will approve the export of LNG, as the industry and politicians debate whether it is in the national interest for America to export LNG or become self-sufficient.

Andrew Williams, Senior Energy Analyst with RBC Capital Markets, Melbourne, told *Business Advantage PNG* that any entry by North America into the global LNG market will simply go into the mix of available LNG sources.

He says more LNG availability has the potential to influence prices for PNG, 'but where PNG has an advantage is that its gas is wet', meaning it contains compounds like butane and methane which can be separated and sold on their own.



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**CRIME IN LAE**

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### **Crime Continues in Lae**

We sent the following information to members this week.

The following rumour circulated very quickly around Lae, which was received by the LCCI emanating from 2 Security Companies, and countless helpful individuals. There is no way of validating this rumour and whilst the Police have also heard about it just as we have, they have no details. The only thing to do is to take extra precautions - be careful who you let into your premises, and who you talk to. Report any suspicious incident, or behaviour by individuals or groups. We will keep following up on this report and will advise if it is found to contain some truth, or likewise if it is false.

**We have received Intel that some big players from POM are in Lae looking to hit something big. We were told that they will be using police uniforms and are carrying some serious firepower.**

**As usual the target is unknown but apparently it's going to be a big haul supposed to happen in the next two weeks.**

#### **CRIME IN GENERAL**

Whilst the Police have mounted foot patrols and are certainly more mobile, they have been very effective against some of the criminal element on the streets. Hence they have stopped a lot of the street crime – bag snatchers, mobile phone robbers, pickpockets etc, but the gangs are still on the move in Lae. Cars are still being stolen and are often used in gang robberies.

Again we warn members to be extremely vigilant and report any unusual groups gathered on the road or near your premises. Try to have someone on your residence at all times and lock all the doors of your vehicle when driving and avoid driving into unknown or unsafe areas.

The Morobe Show is on soon and we encourage members to take the opportunity of seeing this unique and enjoyable event. However we realise that it also attracts certain bad elements to Lae, who use the opportunity to pursue their criminal intentions.

Hence we expect a rise in smaller and petty crimes leading up to and directly after the show. These will include car thefts, pick pocketing, house invasions and stealing in general. We hence issue this general warning to all members to be extra cautious during this period.



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The hall stage – A fresh new shop front for a fresh new TISOL

## FRESH LOOK FOR TISOL

Thanks to the IEA and Nosrida Ltd. The International School of Lae is undergoing major facelifts in 2013. Building new facilities and the upgrading of existing facilities is creating a fresh look for TISOL. As well as a new administration building, the Early Education Centre is being redesigned and redeveloped ready to provide a bigger and more spacious educational learning program for the younger children of Lae.

Everywhere you look around the school, there is something new happening. The campus is cleaner, brighter and fresher. The new facilities are leading the way in re-establishing TISOL as a quality international educational provider here in Morobe.

Inside classrooms there are new developments are also underway. The school has invested in a fleet of new computers for its computer Lab. New furniture and resources are on the way for the Early Education Centre, the library has been re configured, and teachers are busily ordering up new reading and maths resources.

It is a fresh look and a fresh approach that is creating a bright (and shiny) future for Lae's international primary school.



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**The Soroptimist  
event was to be  
held on 31<sup>st</sup> August,  
but the date had to  
be extended due to  
a conflict with the  
PNG Medical sym-  
posium.**

**Hence we will see  
you at the event on  
Saturday 14<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2013**

**market  
WATCH**

**PNGIndustryNews.net - Market Watch**

### **Bougainville Copper surges**

**Friday, 6 September 2013  
Blair Price**

BOUGAINVILLE Copper shares soared this week after rehabilitation specialist United Nations Environment Program agreed to help with efforts to clean up the damage associated with the Panguna copper-gold mine on the island.

The UNEP-assisted environmental studies are expected to help Bougainvilleans decide whether they want to reopen the mine.

Bougainville Copper shares have climbed 20% this week and are up 3% so far today.

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**FOR SALE BY TENDER - Tenders Closing 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 – 4.00pm**

**"Looking for a development opportunity in Wewak – 4853sqm2 of Land"**

For sale by tender the following property has 9 x 3 Bedroom Units on 4853sqm2 of land in Wewak Hill. Views to Bismark Sea. A rare and unique opportunity to buy 4853sqm2 of Land in Wewak, an ideal spot for Hotel/Motel.

Excellent investment opportunity.

<http://www.arthurstrachan.com.pg/tenders-auctions>