



# FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DESK

ROD HILTON



# Solomon Islands Australia Partnership

## Australia funds 100 community projects in 2024



Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Rod Hilton inspecting water tanks installed at Bubumala Community, Northwest Guadalcanal, as part of a water supply project



Nuoba Clinic in Temotu Nende now has solar-powered electricity for the first time ever thanks to SBD 164,000 in funding from Australia

With most of Solomon Islands' population living in rural areas, I know how important it is for communities to have quality infrastructure that improves livelihoods. **Solomon Islands – Australia Community Partnerships touch the lives of people in every province in Solomon Islands.** That is why Australia increased our community program fivefold over the last year, meaning we are funding more projects in Solomon Islands than ever before.

Australia has funded a record number of community projects in 2024 – with **100 projects across every province of Solomon Islands.** This month I have approved sixty more projects across Solomon Islands, in addition to the forty we funded earlier this year.

These sixty new projects represent almost SBD 15 million in direct funding to Solomon Islands businesses for building materials and transportation services before the end



Work progressing on the installation of a fence around a health clinic in Rennell and Bellona, funded through the Solomon Islands – Australia Community Partnerships.

of the year. Australia only gives money to Solomon Islands businesses for these projects, giving local businesses opportunities to supply good quality materials and create local jobs.

These projects are delivered in partnership with communities across Solomon Islands, which construct the small-scale community infrastructure projects with a proud

sense of ownership, knowing the positive impact the projects have on their communities. Through these projects, there are hundreds of communities across Solomon Islands that are a part of the Solomon Islands – Australia Partnership.

We've also had a record number of Members of Parliament working with us to deliver these projects. Twenty-seven



Construction of a FaeFae (kastom haos) in Lilisiana, Aoke/Langalanga designed to be a community meeting hall for chiefs to pass down traditional knowledge, funded by Australia.

of these projects will be **co-funded with Members of Parliament**, who recognise the importance of working with their constituencies. I'm looking forward to celebrating with these important Solomon Islands leaders to acknowledge their important contribution to their constituencies at our awards night in December.

Solomon Islands – Australia Community Partnerships are designed to improve the living standards of people across Solomon Islands. For example, there are **water access** and WASH projects in Malaita Outer Islands, Ngella, Temotu

Pele, Savo/Russells, East Makira, Central Guadalcanal, East Are'Are, Temotu VATUD, Ulawa-Ugi and Northeast Guadalcanal Constituencies.

I've loved visiting **community halls** across Solomon Islands – they're a key part of building community cohesion and providing a place for people to gather. That's why Australia has approved funding for community

halls in Hograno/Kia/Havulei, Aoke/Langalanga, Northwest Choiseul, Fataleka, Marovo, Central Guadalcanal, North Malaita and East Central Guadalcanal Constituencies.

I'm excited to support **women's economic participation**, by funding a small community women's market house in Mwanibena in Central Makira for the first time. Australia is also funding a community footpath in Central Kwara'ae, and a community bridge in Wagina, South Choiseul.

Australia is investing in **education infrastructure**

through these grants, with a school fence in Northwest Guadalcanal, a staff house in Gao/Bugotu and classrooms in Hograno/Kia/Havulei, Temotu Nende and East Honiara.

I know **electricity** doesn't yet reach many parts of Solomon Islands, making life hard for health clinics to help sick people, or for schools to teach students, or communities to feel safe at night. I've approved solar lighting projects for streetlights in West New Georgia/Vona Vona, Maringe/Kokota, Ranonga/Simbo, Small Malaita and the Rennell & Bellona Provincial Headquarters. In addition, three schools in Marovo, East Kwaio and West Kwaio and a clinic in Ranonga/Simbo will have solar powered electricity installed for the first time thanks to this funding.

I've listened to Solomon Islands communities and Members of Parliament tell me how important it is for communities across the country to have infrastructure to improve livelihoods. I am looking forward to visiting the new and existing projects in 2024 and seeing the impact of the Solomon Islands – Australia Partnership

Lukim iu neks taem!



Meet Jemima, Gladys and Esther – three teachers at the overcrowded Tuvaruhu Primary School in Central Honiara, where Australia is supporting the construction of a new classroom building.