IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON FURTHER BILATERAL COOPERATION ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LAW AND ORDER

Update as at 31 August 2015

- The Joint Understanding (JU) was signed by Prime Minister O’Neill and former Prime Minister Rudd on 19 July 2013.

- Under the JU, Australia committed $420 million of assistance to:
  (i) fund 50% of the redevelopment of Lae ANGAU Hospital and contribute to the costs of senior management personnel;
  (ii) deploy an additional 50 Australian Police in Port Moresby and Lae;
  (iii) rehabilitate essential infrastructure at the University of PNG (UPNG) and support twinning and exchange with Australian institutions;
  (iv) scope and design the Lower Courts complex in Port Moresby;
  (v) scope and design the Madang – Ramu Highway; and
  (vi) recruit senior positions in the Royal PNG Constabulary, and National Departments of Health and Education.

- The JU Joint Implementation Framework (JUIF) was signed by the Australian High Commissioner and Chief Secretary on 10 January 2014.
  - The JUIF Consultative Committee (JUCC) has met four times.

Australia to fund 50% of the redevelopment of Lae ANGAU Hospital and contribute to the costs of senior management personnel

- The Integrated Master Plan for the Lae ANGAU Hospital was finalised in June 2015.
  - Hassell was selected through an international competitive tender process to undertake the Master Planning process.
  - The detailed architectural design stage will commence following joint approval of the Master Plan by the Government of PNG (GoPNG) and Government of Australia (GoA).
  - The detailed architectural design work and construction works will both be subject to international tender processes.

- In June 2015, Dr Christopher Kenyhercz, a senior healthcare executive from the United States, was appointed as the CEO of ANGAU Hospital following an
international recruitment process which was undertaken in conjunction with the PNG Departments of Personnel Management and Health.

- Dr Kenyhercz commenced on 15 July 2015.
- Australia is funding the non-salary component of the CEO position.

- In 2013 GoPNG endorsed the release of K15 million for urgent repairs on the hospital and approved an initial K5 million contract under ‘State of Emergency’ arrangements.
  - The State of Emergency for ANGAU hospital has since been rescinded.
  - In 2014, a further K21 million was allocated to the emergency works by GoPNG.
  - Three new 50-bed wards have been constructed with the GoPNG funding.
  - The Australian High Commission (AHC) is continuing to work with hospital management, NDoH and the ANGAU Board to ensure coordination of urgent and early works at the hospital and the master planning process.
  - The AHC has engaged a works coordinator to assist the hospital to scope, tender and implement urgent repairs. The coordinator commenced in February 2015.
  - The AHC has also engaged a communications manager to assist with staff and community engagement around the redevelopment. The communications manager commenced in August 2015.
  - The AHC is funding the establishment of a redevelopment site office on hospital grounds to facilitate works coordination and community engagement. Work has begun and the site office will be operational by January 2016.
  - On 28 August 2015 the Board approved a list of 39 projects for immediate implementation to improve services at the Hospital in the short term. The AHC is providing K11 million this year to fund these projects. This work will be tendered in September.

- In 2015-16, the Australian Government will fund infrastructure upgrades to increase student capacity of the Lae School of Nursing located at ANGAU hospital. Architectus has been selected as the Contract Management Services consultant (CMS) and design work has commenced.

- A consultancy for an analysis of the financing options for PNG and Australia to jointly fund the reconstruction of the ANGAU hospital is underway. Initial recommendations were presented in June 2015.

- The Steering Committee to oversee the rehabilitation of ANGAU Hospital met in March, June, August, November and December 2014, March and June 2015. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2015.
**Additional 50 Australian Police in Port Moresby and Lae**

- All 50 Australian Federal Police (AFP) were deployed before the end of 2013 in Port Moresby and Lae under a Memorandum of Understanding for deployment signed by the AFP and Royal PNG Constabulary Commissioners.
  - The PNG-Australia Ministerial Forum in December 2014 agreed to a re-shaping of the deployment to increase its focus on the professionalism of the RPNGC, combating family and sexual violence, major event security and increased training in Australia.

**Rehabilitation of essential infrastructure at University of PNG (UPNG) and support for twinning and exchange with Australian institutions**

- The work plan for this commitment was endorsed by the Office for Higher Education (OHE) and UPNG Vice-Chancellor in September 2013.
  - UPNG’s Quality Assessment, which is guiding Australia’s support, was finalised in March 2014.
  - Based on the Quality Assessment’s findings, the Australian High Commission, OHE Director General and the Vice Chancellor UPNG agreed in-principle to the scope of Australian support for infrastructure development, which includes support to:
    - improve the management of student records,
    - improve safety and security on the campus grounds, and
    - improve learning facilities through the rehabilitation of UPNG’s existing Main Lecture Theatre and, subject to scoping and design, construction of an additional lecture theatre.

- An implementation schedule, covering scoping, design, procurement and construction of infrastructure works was agreed on 17 September 2014.
  - Scoping for a new student services building and a new lecture theatre was completed in June 2015. Detailed design work commenced in July with construction expected to commence in 2016.
  - Security lighting upgrades to key campus pathways were completed in June 2015.
  - ICT upgrades to the Main Lecture Theatre are underway and are expected to be complete in September 2015.
  - Further small-scale infrastructure and maintenance support has been identified and costed, and work is underway.

- Infrastructure works at UPNG are being procured through Australia’s PNG Health and Education Procurement Facility (HEPF), which is managed by a consortium of HK Logistics, Abt JTA and Reeves International and the JU-Technical Enabling Unit, which is managed by Cardno Emerging Markets.
• Arrangements for twinning and exchange programs with Australian tertiary institutions have been finalised. The selection of partners was based on areas of need identified by UPNG to support the Quality Assessment.
  – On 28 April 2015, UPNG agreed a twinning MoU with James Cook University (JCU) for support to improve teaching and learning services.
  – UPNG and JCU are currently developing a work plan for the twinning program. This is expected to be complete by the end of September 2015.

Scoping and Design of the Lower Courts Complex in Port Moresby

• Cox Rayner Architects & Pac Architects (in partnership) have commenced the scoping and design of the Lower Court Complex (Magisterial Services), including preliminary architectural designs.
  – Scoping work is expected to be completed in late 2015 with detailed design to follow.
  – A Project Steering Committee has been established to oversee this work, including members of the Australian High Commission, Magisterial Services and National Judicial Staff Services.
  – The scoping and design of the Lower Court Complex will be managed by the JU-Technical Enabling Unit, managed by Cardno Emerging Markets.

Scoping and Design Study of the Madang – Ramu Highway

• The scoping and design study of the Ramu Highway is being managed by the Australian-funded PNG-Australia Transport Sector Support Program (TSSP).
  – The Department of Works (DoW) approved the approach for the scoping and design study tender on 20 March 2014.
  – Following an international competitive tender process, the contract for the scoping and design study was awarded to Ramu Gateway Joint Venture in November 2014 and work is underway.

• A draft Scoping Study report (incorporating development options and cost estimates, an environmental assessment and a resettlement plan) was submitted in June 2015. The Study Report is expected to be finalised in September 2015.
  – Once GoPNG and GoA endorse the scoping study findings, a detailed technical Design Study will be undertaken.
Recruitment of senior positions in PNG Police, Correctional Services and National Departments of Health and Education

- GoPNG has not yet identified the positions for which it wishes to utilise Australian assistance. Any positions to be filled will be identified through the Joint Understanding Consultative Committee.