

Solomon Islands Growth Program (SIGP) Mid-Term Review Recommendations and Management Response

| Recommendation | Response | Explanation | Action plan |
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| Recommendation 1 Managers and implementers of SIGP activities should continue to maintain an awareness of other activities in the program and take advantage of potential linkages that may emerge in the future. | Agree | DFAT agrees. | DFAT program and activity managers will continue to be aware of and take advantage of potential linkages. Collaboration and visibility of activities will be strengthened through regular SIGP specific meetings, chaired by the SIGP investment manager. |

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| Recommendation 2 A small Steering Committee should be established for Strongim Bisnis and technical support engaged to assist the AHC in managing the activity. | Agree | DFAT will establish a Steering Committee for Strongim Bisnis in 2019. | DFAT Strongim Bisnis program and activity manager will establish Steering Committee in Q2 2019. |

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| | | The DFAT activity manager of Strongim Bisnis will engage technical support for the activity when the need arises. | DFAT Strongim Bisnis program and activity manager will procure technical support on a needs basis, as required. |

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| Recommendation 3 Part-time technical assistance should be available to the SIGP Program Manager to develop missing or incomplete management systems, to review, identify additional needs and interpret data and other content of management information systems and to assist in the preparation and review of reports. | Agree | With the conclusion of the Program Coordinator position, the Program Manager will look to procure technical support for the activity where the need arises. | DFAT will ensure the 2019/20 budget contains an allocation for technical assistance. DFAT SIGP program and activity manager to procure technical support on a needs basis, as required. |

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| <p>Recommendation 4 (i)</p> <p>Regarding M&E: at the activity level, M&E arrangements could be enhanced by the inclusion of outcome evaluations for the East Guadalcanal Road and Bridges Project, Gizo Market Redevelopment and support to the ERU and by ensuring the M&E system for Strongim Bisnis is put into operation;</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> | <p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB), as technical lead on the Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Improvement Project (STIIP), recently conducted a mid-term review of STIIP, which considered the East Guadalcanal Road and Bridges Project. The ADB will similarly undertake the end of program assessment at the conclusion on STIIP in 2021.</p> <p>DFAT will integrate the ERU advisers into Honiara Post's Governance program. M&E of ERU outcomes will then be carried out by the existing management arrangements of the Governance program.</p> | <p>The relevant DFAT program and activity managers will undertake outcome evaluations for: East Guadalcanal Roads and Bridges project as part of STIIP completion, Gizo Market Redevelopment and support to the ERU in accordance with DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards.</p> <p>DFAT will ensure that Strongim Bisnis puts into operation its M&E system.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 4 (ii)</p> <p>Regarding M&E: at the SIGP level, consideration should be given to focussing the AQC on the four largest activities.</p> | <p>Agree</p> | <p>DFAT agrees. This will simplify the overall AQC and avoid onerous reporting requirements for very small activities, which would otherwise not require an AQC to be prepared.</p> | <p>2018 AQC to focus on the four largest activities (value AUD 3million and above):</p> <p>Tina River Hydropower Project, Strongim Bisnis, Gizo Market and East Guadalcanal Roads and Bridges Project.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 4 (iii)</p> <p>Regarding M&E: (iii) at the portfolio level, the PAF requires nuancing to better reflect the complexities inherent in measuring economic empowerment in the Solomon Islands context, particularly for women.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> | <p>The current Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) was reviewed in 2018. As part of the new Aid Investment Plan (AIP) 2019 – 2023, a new PAF will be developed, and in its formulation, DFAT will consider how to better measure economic empowerment in the Solomon Islands context.</p> | <p>DFAT will develop a new PAF as part of the AIP (2019 –2023) in Q3 2019.</p> |

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| Recommendation 5 SIGP should not be extended in its present form beyond its current term given the absence of identifiable benefits accruing from the current aggregation of activities into the program. | Agree | DFAT agrees that SIGP should not be extended in its current form, although specific activities in SIGP may continue beyond 2020. | DFAT will commence design of a new economic growth program in 2019 and manage the closure of SIGP in 2020. |

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| Recommendation 6 There is an urgent need to commence the purposeful development of a set of investments and activities for the economic growth portfolio of the AHC that can commence in mid-2020. | Agree | DFAT will commence work on designs for the economic portfolio pending finalisation of the AIP 2019 - 2023. | DFAT will progress design work in 2019 for future economic growth activities beyond SIGP. |