

pp 1-2 exempt in full - s
33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 34(3)

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pp. 3-26 exempt in full -
s 33(b), 33(a)(iii)

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Ministerial Submission

21 June 2018

FOR: Ms J Bishop MP
 INFO: Mr S Ciobo MP, Sen C Fierravanti-Wells

Action Requested By: 3 July 2018
 Reason for Urgency:

Undersea Cables Project: PNG and Solomon Islands: Update

<p>Key issues: The second phase of the Undersea Cables Project (UCP) commenced on 15 June with the signing of the \$136.6m Engineer, Procure and Construct (EPC) contract with Vocus. <u>Project implementation is on time and budget.</u> s 33(a)(iii)</p>	
<p>Recommendation: That you:</p> <p>a) Note DFAT has entered into a limited tender, <i>in announced</i> \$136.6 million EPC contract with Vocus to build a high-speed undersea cable from Sydney to Port Moresby and Honiara, as well as a domestic network in Solomon Islands;</p> <p>b) Note s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b) and we are aiming to sign a Trilateral MoU in Brisbane on 11 July;</p> <p>c) Agree to PNG's and Solomon Islands' <u>preferred logo</u> for the Coral Sea Cable System (CS²) at Attachment A;</p> <p>d) s 33(a)(iii), s 47C</p> <p>e)</p>	<p>Decision:</p> <p><u>Noted</u></p> <p><u>Noted</u></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Noted</u></p> <p><u>Noted</u></p>
<p>Domestic/Media Considerations: Sustained interest since the PM media release announcing the signing of the Landing Party Agreement with Solomon Islands (13 June) and your media release (19 June) following the signing of the head contract with Vocus. Action: Media talking points continue to be updated as required.</p> <p><i>Julie Bishop</i> 28 June 2018</p>	
<p>Information: <u>Noted</u></p> <p>Steven Ciobo Concetta Fierravanti-Wells / / / /</p>	
<p>From: Head, UCTF - PAD Pablo Kang, 02 6261s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p>Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
<p>Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Yes If the proposal is high risk/high value (over \$100m) Has the concept been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Yes</p>	
<p>Consultation: PNB, Port Moresby</p>	

Background:

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 34(3), s42, s 47C

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ATTACHMENT A



CORAL SEA CABLE SYSTEM





01 June 2018

Ministerial Submission

MS18-001041³⁰

Cleared: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

FOR: Ms J Bishop MP
INFO: Mr S Ciobo MP, Sen C Fierravanti-Wells,
Mr M Coulton MP

Action Requested By: 8 June 2018
Reason for Urgency: Before the arrival of
Prime Minister Hoenipwela on 9 June

SOLOMON ISLANDS PRIME MINISTER GUEST OF GOVERNMENT VISIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Key Issues: We seek your (Ms Bishop's) approval of proposed announcements during the Guest of Government visit by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Hoenipwela on 9-15 June 2018. The announcements are drawn from existing budgets and support our priorities in the region. They include s 22(1)(a)(ii)

the undersea cable, s 22(1)(a)(ii) DFAT is seeking your participation in the program and the announcements, which is under consideration by the Prime Minister's Office.

Recommendation:

Decision:

That you:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

a) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

b)

b)

c) agree to the announcement of a Solomon Islands domestic undersea cable network and the signing of a landing party agreement between the Commonwealth and the Solomon Islands Submarine Cable Company

Agreed / Not Agreed

d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

e)

Domestic/Media Considerations: There may be media interest, particularly on the undersea cable.

Action:

Jule Bishop
Jule Bishop
12/6/18

Information:

Noted

Steven Ciobo
/ /

Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
/ /

Mark Coulton
/ /

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) A/g Assistant Secretary, Melanesia Branch, PAD, 6261

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Yes
If the proposal is high risk/high value (over \$100m) Has the concept been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable

Consultation: CYA, UCTF, RGB, Honiara Post



Background:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. On 19 April 2018, PM Turnbull and PM Hou affirmed commitment to a **high-speed telecommunications cable** between Australia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. s 34(3) the Australian Government agreed the project include a domestic network linking Honiara to Auki (Malaita), Noro (Western Province) and Taro (Choiseul). This will extend the benefits of the international cable beyond Honiara (14 per cent of the population). PM Turnbull and PM Hou would announce the domestic network for the first time during the visit and witness the signing of a landing party agreement between the Commonwealth and the Solomon Islands Submarine Cable Company. The agreement sets out responsibilities of each party in delivering the project. The announcement would also be the first time the Australian Government specifies that the landing point for the cable will be Sydney – although this has already appeared in some media outlets.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

UNCLASSIFIED



28 March 2018

FOR: Ms J Bishop MP

INFO: Sen C Fierravanti-Wells

Ministerial Submission

MS18-000597

Cleared: Pablo Kang

Action Requested By: 4 April 2018

Reason for Urgency: Ministerial Forum signature on 6 April

Undersea Cables Project: Australia PNG Memorandum of Understanding

Key Issues: As foreshadowed at the Senior Officials' Meeting in Port Moresby on 13 March, and flagged by Minister Pato following your recent visit, we propose you sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Australia PNG Ministerial Forum to formalise our joint Government commitment to the Undersea Cables Project. s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

but are sending you this in the interests of time.

Recommendation:

That you:

- a) Note the proposed attached text of the Australia PNG MoU on the undersea cables project.
- b) Agree to sign the MoU at the Australia PNG Ministerial Forum on 6 April.
- c) Note we will revert to your Office if we receive any subsequent major changes from PNG stakeholders.

Decision:

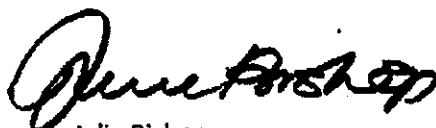
Noted

Agreed / Not Agreed

Noted

Domestic/Media Considerations: MoU signing to be referenced in the post-Ministerial Forum media release. PNG stakeholder, Kumul Telikom Holdings (KTH) have expressed interest in issuing a statement. May attract external media, particularly in PNG.

Action: Additional text related to the project have been provided to KTH for their use.


Julie Bishop
5 APR 2018

Information:

Noted

Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
/ /

From: Pablo Kang, Head, PAD - Undersea Cables Task Force
02 6261 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s
22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable
If the proposal is high risk/high value (over \$100m) Has the concept been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable

Consultation: LGD (DFAT), Port Moresby Post, DoCA

UNCLASSIFIED

Background:

At the Australia PNG Ministerial Forum we propose you sign a Memorandum of Understanding with ^{s 33(a)(iii)}
^{s 33(b), s 47C} to formalise our joint Government commitment to the Undersea Cables

Project. ^{s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47C}

proposal to sign an MoU on the project was welcomed at the Senior Officials' Meeting held in Port Moresby on 13 March.

2. An MoU was initially requested by the PNG Government (Deputy Prime Minister Abel) at the project outset, but instead a joint Prime Ministers' media release was issued in the margins of APEC Leaders' meeting in November 2017, with Abel then suggesting the MoU be signed at the Ministerial Forum. We are now in a position to draft the high-level text that encapsulates the commitments of both Governments. ^{s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)}

3. The MoU is in addition to a number of technical agreements to be signed over the coming weeks and months by the responsible contractual parties of the project. ^{s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47C}

4. ^{s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47C}

If any subsequent

changes are major we would consult further with your Office.

pp. 34-38 exempt in full -
s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

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pp. 39-62 exempt in full - s
33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 34(1)(c)

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pp. 63-67 exempt in full - s 33(a)(iii),
s 33(b), s 34(3)

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pp. 68-69 exempt in full - s 33(a)(i),
s 33(a)(iii), s 7(2A)(b)

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pp. 71-72 exempt in full - s 33(a)(i),
s 33(a)(iii), s 7(2A)(b)

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