

## Electricity policy honiara

Improved access to reliable electricity for Solomon Islands is one step closer with a historic agreement signed yesterday with the Australian Government under the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP).

Australia is funding construction of a 22km transmission system to deliver renewable energy generated by the Tina River Hydropower Project to Honiara. This is part of our almost \$60 million investment in this important energy project.

This critical piece of infrastructure will help provide reliable electricity for more people in Solomon Islands, alleviating pressure on household incomes and providing opportunities for improved government and community services.

"Solomon Islands is more than a partner, they are our family, our wantok. Together, we can invest in the future of households, businesses and government services in Honiara via reliable renewable energy."

"The Tina River Hydropower Project is a bold, transformational infrastructure project. Australia is proud to support the Solomon Islands in realising its vision for economic development," Minister Seselja said.

Joint media release by Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification Permanent Secretary Dr. Christopher Vehe during the National Energy Summit said the roadmap for the ambitious target is outlined in the Renewable Energy Road Map for Honiara.

"We are looking to have 80 percent of the country's urban population and 40 percent of the rural population connected to renewable energy by 2025. The renewable energy strategy policy and promoting efficient use of energy resources and increasing sector sustainability, establishing a regulatory environment is very important for the sector," he said.

"Under the Solomon Islands renewable energy project, we are trying to increase renewable energy share in the generation mix, this is a challenge for us while the technology changes we also need to change our perception as the market changes we want to make sure we have a proper energy mix in the country."

He said currently with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) they are piloting



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projects across the country aimed at developing proper renewable energy approaches and models.

"We want to make sure when we do a particular approach for a sector, we are careful we don't assume that every other approach will be idle for every other sector, the sector needs can vary so it needs very robust planning and research," he said.

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