

BUSINESS MISSION TO BOUGAINVILLE.

Arranged in conjunction with Australian Trade Commission and Australian High Commission, Port Moresby.

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022 TO FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2022.

The Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council, in conjunction with the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) and the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, is arranging a Business Mission to Bougainville from Monday 10 October 2022 to Friday 14 October 2022.

THE MARKET.

Bougainville is a small market, but with the right policies and governance, Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) aim of an improved economy is achievable. The ABG is keen to develop a business friendly environment which would make the region's economy more attractive to foreign and local investors. A policy statement by the Vice-President and Minister for Commerce, Trade and Economic Development in April 2022 which can be read [here](#) sets out an ambitious agenda for business and economic development. Much needs to be done to strengthen the business environment and improve the investment climate to make Bougainville a more attractive place to do business. One of the projected outcomes from the Bougainville Internal Investment and Economic Summit being held alongside the visit will be for discussions between business representatives and the ABG about the critical steps required for attracting quality foreign investment into Bougainville.

On the production side, opportunities exist in agriculture, especially support goods and services to promote agricultural production and productivity. The main existing value chain is cocoa, which the Autonomous Bougainville Government is prioritising. There are some companies in Singapore, Indonesia and New Zealand already investing or considering investing in high value single source cocoa from Bougainville, particularly organic cocoa. There is existing Australian investment in agriculture.

There are also some emerging value chains: fisheries; virgin coconut oil; beche de mere (sea cucumber) farming and processing; other high value/low transport cost agricultural products such as vanilla and spices; and business development services to farmers, traders and exporters to support innovation, production and productivity increases.

There are significant infrastructure gaps, which leaves opportunities for public-private partnership models for roads and wharfs. Also, if economic output and farmer incomes increase, there will likely be increased demand in prefab houses and more modern construction materials.

There is a substantial Australian development program in Bougainville which includes opportunities for contracting.

On the consumption side, if Bougainville reaches its commitments, Bougainville would be the fastest growing economy in the world, and there would be opportunities around changing consumption patterns from higher disposable incomes. This might include: retail, electronics, vehicles, food due to dietary changes.

The website of the ABG is at [Autonomous Bougainville Government \(ABG\)](#). Details of Australian government programs assisting the ABG is at [Australian assistance to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#).

THE MISSION:

Mission participation is for members of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council and other invited participants. Spaces may be limited and will be allocated to members on a first come first served basis. Non-members may register an interest in participation which will be assessed on a space available basis.

Participants registering for the mission will be asked to provide a snapshot of their business interests and capabilities, which will be used to tailor a program to meet the interest of all participants. The Business Council will rely on the market knowledge of the Australian Trade Commission and the Australian High Commission to Papua New Guinea and their network of contacts to identify interlocutors of value to participants.

The visit program will include a mix of briefings from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) on their current economic plans and policies, by Australian High Commission representatives on development assistance programs, meetings with different (informal) industry groups in Bougainville (there are few formal associations), and participation in a Bougainville Internal Investment and Economic Summit in Buka, convened by the ABG with support from the

Australian Government. The Mission will assemble in Port Moresby on **Monday 10 October** for travel to Buka on Air Niugini Flight PX290 0955/1355. After arrival in Buka participants will be briefed about Bougainville by Australian High Commission staff and Australian funded Economic Advisors, and a series of meetings with the ABG President, Cabinet and heads of relevant economic sector ABG Departments and the Buka Business Association, all subject to their availability.

The Mission will spend two nights in Buka, which will include participation in the Bougainville Internal Investment and Economic Summit. On **Wednesday 12 October 2022** participants will travel to Arawa, and visit business and economic sites en-route including a cocoa plantation, and the Bougainville Technical College in Tinputz.

Wednesday 12 October 2022 and **Thursday 13 October 2022** will be spent in and around Arawa and possible meetings with Bank of South Pacific (Arawa Branch), Arawa Women's Micro-finance, Arawa Business Association, various local business owners, Kieta wharf, and a possible cultural experience including a locally prepared meal at Pok Pok island, and a possible visit to the Panguna mine site.

Participants will depart from Kieta for Port Moresby on **Friday 14 October 2022** on Flight PX293 at 1335 with available same day connections to Cairns and on to Brisbane.

A more detailed program is being developed and will be provided to registered participants closer to the date of the Mission.

COSTS:

Mission participants are required to make their own air travel and accommodation arrangements. Ground travel in Bougainville will be provided by the Australian High Commission. There will be a mission fee as detailed in the attached booking form.

RECOMMENDED FLIGHTS:

The following are the recommended flights for travel to Bougainville and return to Port Moresby.

Monday 10 October 2022:

0955 Depart Port Moresby Flight PX290.

1330 Arrive Buka (+1 hour time change).

Friday 14 October 2022:

1510 Depart Arawa Flight PX293.

1550 Arrive Port Moresby (-1 hour time change). Connections available to Cairns and Brisbane.

ACCOMMODATION IN BOUGAINVILLE:

Participants are required to make their own accommodation bookings in Buka and Arawa. The following are recommended accommodation providers.

BUKA (TWO NIGHTS: MONDAY 10 AND TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER):

JSK Guest Haus & Units, PO Box 175, Buka, ARoB. Telephone: +675 7186 3998, Email: jskguesthouse1@gmail.com or jskreservations@gmail.com

Reasons Lodge, Buka Town, Buka Island, Mobile: +675 7225 9041, Fax: +675 9739811, Email: tlegacy03@gmail.com or reasonsaccommodation@gmail.com

Destiny Guest House, PO Box 69, ARoB, Telephone: +675 948 0011, Mobile: +675 7069 2458, Fax: +675 973 9048, Email: destinyguesthaus6@gmail.com

Lynchar Hotel, Main Street Buka, Bougainville Island, Telephone: +675 7237 6571, Email: lynchar.hotel13@gmail.com

Toyena Lodge, P O Box 292 Buka. Gregory +675 71758826, Patricia +675 71194337, E-mail: toyenalodge@gmail.com.

ARAWA: (TWO NIGHTS: IN ON WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER OUT ON FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER)

Rising Sun Lodge, Arawa Town, Central Bougainville, Telephone: +675 7261 9719, Email: risingsun.lodge@gmail.com

Poonang Nava Inn, Section 10, Arawa, Bougainville Island, Telephone: +675 7239 2530

Gold Dust Inn. +675 7286 2270. E-mail: golddustinn.arob@gmail.com.

Arawa Transit Lodge. +675 7317 1340. E-mail: arawatransitlodge53@gmail.com.

BOOKINGS:

To book your place on the Mission you must complete the attached booking form and lodge it with your payment as either a member or a non-member by close of business on Friday 15 September 2022. Your completed booking form will be provided to the Australian Trade Commission which will assess the nature of your company business and the specific opportunities or appointments and objectives you have nominated and may contact you directly to make other suggestions relevant to supporting your interests.

For further information please contact Frank Yourn, Executive Director, Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council, Tel: 07 3348 5142 or 0412 608 195, or e-mail at frank@australiapacificbusiness.org.au.

**RESERVATION FORM AND INVOICE.
Business Mission to Bougainville.
10 to 14 October 2022.**

This is not a tax invoice because it covers services provided outside Australia.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Office: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

Please indicate dietary requirements: _____

Please provide a precis of the nature of your company business and any specific opportunities or appointments and objectives you have in mind for your participation in this mission (provide an attachment if more space required):

Please book me to participate in the Business Mission to Bougainville as follows:

AUD750 per person for representatives of a member of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council.

Please register my interest to participate as a non-member subject to approval:

AUD1,000 per person for non- member of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council..

TOTAL AMOUNT OWING: AUD _____.

Payment Options

CREDIT CARD: (2% processing fee will be added)

Mastercard Visa American Express Diners' Club

Card No Expiry... /

Name on cardSignature of cardholder.....

DIRECT DEPOSIT to Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council, Westpac, WYNNUM QLD Australia 4178, BSB 034-053 Account 392 066. Please include Invoice number on deposit documents to match against your registration. Please include name and company on deposit documents to match against registration form. SWIFT code for International transfers is WPACAU2S (Please add AUD 20.00 to cover international bank fees if transferring funds from outside Australia.).

BOOKING CONDITIONS:

Please note places on the mission cannot be guaranteed until payment is received. The number of participants may be limited and places will be allocated in the order in which payment of the mission administration fee is received. In the event that all places are booked when your application and payment is received, you will be placed on a waiting list or your deposit will be returned if a place does not become available for you. The mission fee is 100% refundable if cancellation of booking is received in writing by 10 September 2022 or in the case of cancellation of the mission. 50% of the fee will be refunded for any cancellation of registration after 10 September 2022. The mission fee is not subject to GST because the service is provided outside Australia.