



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 4 - 2025/287

First tranche of the Nauru-Australia treaty

His Excellency President David Adeang and Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay signed a Direct Funding Arrangement (DFA) to initiate the first tranche of budgetary support allocated to Nauru under the Nauru-Australia Treaty, 11 February.

The agreement will provide AU\$5m for enhancing State-Owned Enterprises services and develop critical infrastructure to bolster energy security and transportation.

This includes support for the Nauru Utilities Corporation in its efforts to incorporate a solar farm; assist Nauru Airlines to ensure the efficient movement of passengers and vital supplies to Nauru and its neighbouring nations; and renovations to the tank farm storage facility to ensure a dependable fuel supply.

The President highlighted that the DFA will ensure rigorous contract supervision for the port project, ensuring its completion meets the highest standards and adheres to established specifications, ultimately strengthening the nation's trade capacity.

President Adeang expressed gratitude to Australia for its ongoing support, emphasising the importance of



President Adeang and High Commissioner Barclay sign Treaty DFA

collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by small island developing states.

“This is the beginning of our journey under the Nauru-Australia treaty, and I would like to thank our partners, the Government of Australia, for their generous and constant support to the people of Nauru.” //

Forum leaders’ high level talanoa on DSM

Pacific Islands Forum representatives met in Suva, Fiji for the first deep sea minerals (DSM) high level talanoa organised by the PIF secretariat and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, 18-21 February.

President David Adeang is one of 16 heads of delegation addressing the emerging industry’s environment, scientific and economic aspects of DSM with traditional knowledge as a cross cutting theme.

“The Pacific region is blessed with vast ocean resources, and it is our responsibility to utilise them wisely to build a resilient and sustainable economy,” the President said underscoring the Blue Pacific’s vision where the future of Pacific nations is taking full ownership of its resources to secure long-term economic independence.



Talanoa sessions provide platform for leaders to share, discuss best ways forward for the region the Pacific way

Cont pg 2...

Forum leaders' high level talanoa on DSM

...from pg 1...

"The recent decision by the new U.S. administration to withhold aid to Pacific nations serves as a reminder that we must take control of our destiny and harness the resources at our disposal for the benefit of our people."

In collaboration with The Metals Company, Nauru has been conducting research since 2012 to ensure that deep-sea mining is conducted responsibly.

President Adeang said Nauru is confident that seabed mineral collection is not mining in the traditional sense – "it is merely sweeping the ocean floor to collect polymetallic nodules, which are found at depths of 4000 metres, where no fish or marine life exists".

Studies have also indicated that the plume generated from this process does not pose a threat to marine ecosystems.

Just as much as there is the reliance on fibre-optic cables for connectivity and addressing the plastic pollution crisis and their presence in and on the ocean floor, is to similarly view deep-sea mineral extraction through a balanced and science-based lens.

PIF Secretary General Baron Waqa said the gathering brings to fruition the call made by Forum leaders in 2023, for a constructive regional dialogue and cooperation on deep sea minerals.

"We recognise the importance of an ocean for today, tomorrow, and the future. That the ocean is our home and the very thread that links us together as one Pacific Forum family. It is more than just a body of water, it is our identity, it is our livelihood, and it is who we are.

"With 96 per cent of our region being ocean, the ocean is at the heart of our geography, our cultures, and our economies. Enormous responsibility is expected of us to ensure that we, our children, and future generations, continue to benefit from all its beauty and bounty in a sustainable way," SG Waqa said.

President Adeang urges Pacific nations to stand united and support Nauru's application to the International Seabed Authority for the responsible extraction of polymetallic nodules and contribute to the global economy and a sustainable future.

The Talanoa provides a platform for Forum Members to share relevant and appropriate national experiences and contexts, to inform collective understanding of DSM issues, both within areas of national jurisdictions and in the international seabed area. //

Micronesian Presidents' Summit



*Heads of delegation of the
Micronesian presidents' summit*

HE President David Adeang was in Suva, Fiji last month for various meetings including the Micronesian Presidents' Summit, 21 February.

The agenda included deep sea mining (DSM) and minerals and their implications for the region on the margins of the Forum leaders DSM talanoa.

Key points of discussion included the need for data sharing, regional coordination and scientific understanding.

Given Nauru's involvement and extensive research in DSM, President Adeang said Nauru will share the

science and findings it has made to date, with MPS members.

The MPS meeting, chaired by FSM was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel and attended by the President of Palau Surangel Whipps, Jr., the Republic of the Marshall Islands Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Kalani Kaneko, the Federated States of Micronesia Minister of Resources & Development Alina Akinaga, and Kiribati's Minister of Fisheries & Ocean Resources Ribanataake Tiwau.

The leaders also discussed the next MPS to be held in Kiribati, as the next chair. //

Camilla Solomon is Nauru's high comm to NZ

Nauru accredited its first non-resident high commissioner to New Zealand, further strengthening the partnership of their two countries.



Solomon serves concurrently as high comm to Australia and NZ

Camilla Solomon, who is also Nauru's high commissioner to Australia with residence in Canberra, presented her Letter of Credence to the Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM, QSO, Governor General and the Commander-in-Chief In and Over the Realm of New Zealand at the Government House in Auckland, 31 January.

She was accorded a traditional Māori challenge and escorted through the Governor Generals Guard for the Presentation of Credentials to the Governor General.

High Commissioner Solomon acknowledged both countries share understanding and respect for the Pacific culture and tradition.

"Though unique in their own ways, our journey is similar – we all aspire to quality of life where our people and communities enjoy prosperity, peace and security."

Ms Solomon further acknowledged New Zealand's role in supporting Nauru meet its developmental goals under the framework of its National Sustainable Development Strategy.

On accepting the Letter of Credentials, Dame Kiro, responded, "Mai nga kokonga o te whare Aotearoa nga mihi māhāna kia koe. From the four corners of the house of Aotearoa, I extend a warm welcome to you" and further offered her warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Nauru on the 57th Independence Day.

Prior to taking up the position, Ms Solomon served as Nauru's secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Her distinguished career includes serving on the board of directors for the Asian Development Bank, Nauru's chief secretary and high commissioner to Fiji.

Nauru established a consulate general office in Auckland in the early 80's which closed in the 1990's.

New Zealand is providing support to key sectors in Nauru including fisheries, education, governance, general budget support and contributions to the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund. Currently there are 20 Nauruan workers employed under New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. //

Portugal donates \$16k for Nauru youth

Nauru's High Commission in Canberra, Australia received a \$16,000 grant committed by the Embassy of Portugal to assist Nauru's youth sector, 7 February.

The grant will enable the review and revision of the Nauru National Youth Policy 2008-2015, in addition to providing technical assistance to help guide this important process.

As a demonstrably committed partner with a history of supporting youth projects in many other regions, the Portuguese government will be a valuable partner for Nauru.

High Commissioner Camilla Solomon said "this donation is really to help our youths... and we are ready to study and analyse other projects that Nauru could have in other areas that would be of utmost importance to [both of] us".



The grant will enable review of the Nauru youth policy

Portuguese Ambassador António Manuel de Albuquerque Vilhena Moniz said that despite the seemingly limited nature of the contribution, his government remains dedicated to providing further assistance, including in other areas, for the progress of Nauru. //

Nauru Airlines recruits new finance chief

Nauru Airlines announced the appointment of Asit Sen as its new chief financial officer, 26 February.



New chief financial officer - Asit Sen

Mr Sen was previously Nauru Airlines' finance manager for the past five years. Prior to joining the airline, he held similar positions at Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd and BRED Bank in Fiji.

"We welcome Asit into the role of CFO bringing his depth of experience into the business," CEO Brett Gebers said.

He adds that Mr Sen's appointment coincided with the airline's 2025 Strategic Planning Session which includes a review of all aspects of the airline's operational and commercial functions as part of the routine budgeting process.

"This annual review is part of our normal business cycle in an ever-changing environment, to ensure the airline is utilising its assets effectively and remains well-positioned to achieve sustainable profitability and long-term success," Mr Gebers said.

"It includes schedule optimisation and fleet planning and considers opportunities for growth, cost optimisation, and enhanced value creation for our stakeholders.

"As part of the process, Nauru Airlines evaluates various future options taking into account current market conditions, customer demand, and industry trends."

Mr Gebers also paid tribute to Nauru Airlines former Chief Financial Officer Ms Mariette Ebersohn.

"We would like to thank Mariette for her extraordinary work ethic and contribution, dedicating six years of her career to Nauru Airlines. We wish her every success in her new venture," he said. //

Nauru sees record number of APP graduates

Over 700 graduates of the latest Alternative Pathways Program (APP), received their certificates of attainment that will broaden their opportunities for further studies and employment, 7 February. This is the largest graduating cohort in the history of Nauru, surpassing the previous program's record.



A select few will pursue onward training abroad

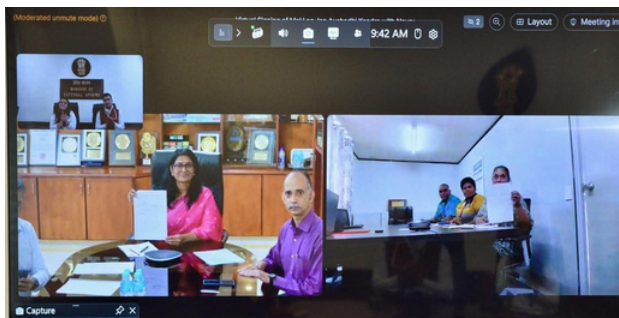
The APP is a training program spearheaded by the Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) and offers over 20 courses including carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, baking, sewing, and small engine repairs, through the Fiji National University (FNU).

His Excellency President David Adeang, Minister for the Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA), attended the ceremony along with FNU's Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata, Chinese Ambassador to Nauru Lyu Jin, Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay, Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu, and Secretary for DMA Daniel Eoe. /



Nauru health signs India MOU

The Ministry of Health signed a memorandum of understanding with India's HLL Lifecare Limited for the supply of medicines under India's Janaushadhi scheme, 7 February.



The agreement is the first between a Pacific nation under the scheme

Secretary Beryl Scotty signed the agreement on Nauru's behalf and expressed sincere gratitude to the government of India and HLL Lifecare Ltd for their dedication to delivering high quality, affordable medicines, and enhancing healthcare access for the people of Nauru.

The agreement represents the first collaboration between a Pacific Island nation and India under this scheme, enabling access to around 2,000 essential medicines and 300 World Health Organisation Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified surgical instruments, all adhering to global quality standards.

The MOU discussions centred on supply needs and ordering processes aimed at optimising healthcare expenditures by redirecting savings from medical supplies to other vital sectors. //

Nauru frigate opens Brisbane warehouse

Frigate Cargo and Logistics Services (FCLS) officially opened its warehouse in Brisbane, Australia, with the plaque unveiling by His Excellency President David Adeang, 13 February, marking a significant milestone in Nauru's logistics ambition.



Plaque unveiling at Frigate warehouse

FCLS is a subsidiary of Naoero Postal Services Corporation, and the launch symbolises Nauru's resilience and determination to service delivery.

Minister Asterio Appi emphasised the government's vision to streamlined logistics services in collaboration with other key state-owned enterprise and in retrospect, the strategic role FCLS plays in the end-to-end logistics services.

FCLS was established as part of the government's commitment to an end-to-end logistics services solution, which includes receiving goods, storage, customs clearance, devanning, and delivery to customers both in Australia and Nauru.

The FCLS team looks forward to delivering exceptional services to meet its customer's needs. //

Bilateral meeting with Australia's Minister Burke

His Excellency President David Adeang engaged in a bilateral meeting with Australian Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke following the Nauru Independence Day program, 31 January.

Minister Burke also met with Foreign Minister Lionel Aingimea and Health Minister Charmaine Scotty to identify avenues for bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of health and regional security.

The discussions underscore Australia's ongoing commitment to supporting Nauru and enhancing the special relationship between the two countries. //



Australia commits to ongoing support for Nauru

January parliament

Multicultural Affairs

The Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) continues its mandate with the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) and upskilling locals through training opportunities under the Alternative Pathways Program (APP).

At the time of the parliament sitting, President David Adeang says 82 transferees are currently on island and housed in community settlement around the island.

Negotiations concerning the RPC funding are progressing with Nauru and Australia working towards finalising an agreement to strengthen their longstanding partnership and ensure alignment with Australia's Operation Sovereign Borders policy, while also contributing meaningfully to Nauru's economic and fiscal resilience.

The APP recently sent seven students to Fiji to pursue advanced level courses that will build on the foundation skills and knowledge they developed through their prior training in Nauru.

The program saw over 700 students graduate on 7 February, the most the program has had. To date, the APP has produced over 1500 graduates from various disciplines including the trades, sewing, and culinary.

Plans are already in place to integrate additional training initiatives through technical and vocational training (TVET) programs, and partnerships with the Fiji National University.

The next round of APP-funded courses set for 21 February will include 19 courses, 10 of which will be FNU courses and nine TVET, both delivered in-country. The comprehensive approach underscores the government's unwavering commitment to capacity building and fostering brighter futures for Nauruans.

President Adeang says through the efforts of the RPC operations and the APP, "we are not only managing the present but also building a foundation for sustainable growth and opportunity".

"My government remains committed to these goals and to ensuring that the people of Nauru thrive in an environment of stability, education, and empowerment, as well as economic and fiscal resilience," President Adeang said. //

China Trip

Nauru has signed agreements with China that will help boost and develop education, air services, and climate resilience.



China MOU focuses on Nauru education

Minister Asterio Appi who is responsible for education, climate change and national resilience, and air services attended meetings for members of the Global Development Promotion Centre Network across China.

He was joined by personnel from the relevant departments on his trip to China in December 2024 resulting in positive outcomes and forward planning initiatives for Nauru.

A key highlight was the co-signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with China's ministry of education. The MOU focuses on fostering mutual understanding through teacher training, language programs, youth empowerment initiatives, and scholarships.

Minister Appi also met with Nauruan students who are at various levels of university studies at Chinese institutions.

The minister reported a promising outlook from his meeting with China's minister for environment and ecology in areas of climate resilience, sustainable development, and energy efficiency.

Key outcomes include agreements on personnel exchanges under the South-South cooperation encompassing donations of climate resilient materials, capacity building programs, and early warning systems.

Other arrangements include initiatives such as household solar equipment, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles, all of which play a crucial role in Nauru's commitment to realising its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

In the aviation sector Minister Appi had a key meeting with China's deputy administrator of civil aviation focused on establishing an air services agreement (ASA)

Noting the urgency of advancing the initiative, Minister Appi said the ASA will provide a legal framework for the establishment of international airline connectivity, fostering shared development and promoting economic prosperity.

Negotiations between the respective departments of transport are progressing and a conclusion anticipated in the coming months.

Minister Appi also had discussions with senior executives from several of China's leading international airlines aimed at strengthening partnerships and laying the groundwork for future collaboration between the aviation sectors of Nauru and China. //

January parliament

Department of Women's and Social Development Affairs

Minister Charmaine Scotty told parliament of the Department of Women's and Social Development Affairs' (WASDA) participation in the recent Asia Pacific Ministerial Meeting, which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.



Minister Scotty presses key sustainable development concerns

The meeting allowed for a reflection on the department's achievements and reaffirm its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region. Despite significant progress, challenges remain in reaching true gender equality.

During the meeting, Nauru delivered key addresses concerning updates on the Beijing Platform for Action and enhancing women's participation and leadership.

Key concerns highlight the critical issues for sustainable development, particularly in the context of climate change, economic inequality, and social injustice.

Minister Scotty also called for renewed commitment to the Beijing principles, emphasising the need for specific policies to address the unique challenges faced by women and girls.

Further discussions underscored the urgent need for strategies to prevent violence and economic hardship, ensuring marginalised voices are heard.

Also featured in the meetings were discussion on strengthening legal frameworks by creating and enforcing laws that protect women's rights.

Nauru committed to enhance national laws to meet international standards, and address violence against women by prioritising the review of the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017. //



Department of Transport

As part of the ongoing work to uncover UXO along the vicinity of the airport, Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik told parliament in January that civil aviation's technical experts have collected soil samples beneath the airport runway on 12 different pits for the purpose of analysing the soil composition and the integrity of the runway.



Work on analysing soil composition and integrity of runway

This leads up to the second scanning activity which will be carried out in March, followed by UXOs investigation in April and May this year.

Minister Aliklik told parliament that "the preliminary findings did not indicate that there are actually any UXOs at this point in time. It is necessary to conduct the investigation to be able to know more information in due time".

Meanwhile, the department's Vehicle Registration and Insurance Division (VRID) has acquired a plate embossing machine and will soon have the capability to produce vehicle number plates locally and customised. This will provide valuable service to the public in cost cutting and waiting time.

The land transport operations division has set goals to focus on delivering higher standards by providing more reliable and timely services of transportation to school children and the public.

The Minister adds that the electric buses are nearing the implementation phase as the charging station undergoes construction at the bus depot in Denig.

"We anticipate the completion of the charger station in the coming weeks and our team is aiming to undertake the electric bus operating training sessions so that we can induct the new electric buses into the fleet. I once again acknowledge the Department of the CCNR for collaborating closely with the transport department on this," Minister Aliklik said. //

Climate Change and National Resilience

The 15th assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi saw 170 member states convene to discuss three critical objectives: to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2023; strengthen nationally determined contributions; and facilitate energy transitions in emerging economies.

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience Asterio Appi told the December sitting of parliament that in attending IRENA he emphasised the transformative power of renewable energy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with Nauru making “remarkable strides in our renewable energy journey”.

He refers to Nauru’s progress including the six megawatt PV solar farm which will supply half of Nauru’s energy requirements which “stands testament to our commitment to sustainable power generation”. The inauguration of Nauru’s first electric buses, marking a historic step toward sustainable transportation; and the grassroots energy efficiency campaign which has engaged communities across the island.

Minister Appi said he emphasised to international partners at IRENA, that for SIDS, renewable energy represents more than an environmental choice – it is fundamentally a lifeline for our future, and called for enhanced international cooperation particularly in financing to address the unique challenges of small island nations.

In the coming months another 18 state-of-the-art electric motorbikes and six electric cars will arrive with the first phase rolled out this month with four motorbikes.

Minister Appi says these practical steps align strategically with the broader vision outline in Nauru’s Energy Roadmap of reducing fossil fuel dependency by 50 per cent, achieving 75 per cent renewable energy in power generation, and enhancing overall energy efficiency by 30 per cent.

“Each electric vehicle deployed, each solar panel installed, and each energy efficient measure implemented brings up closer to these goals.”

The transition to sustainable transportation represents more than an environmental initiative. It creates new jobs with vehicle maintenance and charging infrastructure, develop technical skills, and establishes Nauru as a pioneer in sustainable island transportation systems.

The transition will also significantly reduce Nauru’s foreign exchange expenditure on fossil fuels, contributing to the country’s economic resilience. //

RonPhos dust suppressor

Dust suppression in Nauru’s industrial district will soon be resolved when phosphate company RonPhos receives its first dust suppression unit.

RonPhos Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma and company officials inspected the completed dust suppression unit manufactured for Nauru at the Mideco factory in Melbourne, Australia, 23 January.



DM Thoma (L) with his team at the Mideco factory

RonPhos initiated the project to combat industrial dust and reduce environmental pollution caused by the processing of phosphate, potentially improving the lives and health of nearby residents.

The unit is one of Mideco’s model 45A dust collector system which utilises a reverse air filter (RAF) technology that traps dust regardless of dust load to emission ratio. The unit works effectively even in strenuous conditions such as high humidity and temperature levels.

During the January parliament sitting DM Thoma said the unit is one of RonPhos’ crucial investment to mitigate environmental pollution especially in the district of Aiwo and other affect areas.

Joining the delegation was Nauru student and resident of Aiwo district, Aiwo Roland, who had the privilege to gain insights into the unit’s functions through technical briefings, as well as understanding the system and its potential benefit for Nauru.

The visit underscores the commitment of the government and RonPhos to support education and community understanding of the project.

The dust suppression unit is expected to be shipped in March with logistics arranged for Mideco’s technical team to prepare for its arrival and installation. //

January parliament

Nauru Utilities Corporation

Minister for Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) Reagan Aliklik updated parliament of the state-owned entity's continued work in improving services in energy production, water distribution and the collection of wastewater to meet the needs of the growing population.



Solar farm site shared by the ADB and NZ government

NUC continues to do repairs and upgrades despite its aging assets, facility and infrastructure. One of the high-speed generators is currently undergoing an overhaul and expected to be online in early February, which would help power the grid with a capacity of nine megawatts exceeding the public demand at six megawatts during peak hours.

The Minister said that the impact of the dry spell is affecting NUC in delivering water to customers, however with combined assistance from external agencies it is able to cope with the demands, together with the reverse osmosis (RO) plant producing 1.7 million litres of water per day.

Minister Aliklik added that with the new RO commissioning later this year, it will increase water production to 2.5 million litres per day.

Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation

During the January parliament sitting, Minister for Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) Hon Reagan Aliklik informed the house that the NRC headquarters has been relocated from Civic Centre to the workshop building at topside, effective 27 January.



Land clearing for 2026 Micronesian Games stadium

He refers to Nauru's progress including the six megawatt PV solar farm which will supply half of Nauru's energy requirements which "stands testament to our commitment to sustainable power generation". The inauguration of Nauru's first electric buses, marking a historic step toward sustainable transportation; and the grassroots energy efficiency campaign which has engaged communities across the island.

NUC's sanitation sector continues to progress since its handover from Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC).

With the increased wastewater storage to 278,000 litres per day, this has enabled the sanitation team to attend to more customers. A new waste treatment plant is yet to be operational later this year with further discussions between NUC and the government of Israel.

With the six megawatts solar farm funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) nearing its commissioning date in April, the smart grid project management team GHD Group, NUC and HNAC remain committed to ensure and obtain the target of achieving 50 per cent renewable energy.

Under the Nauru Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Project (NSRUDP), the NUCs water and sanitation team continue to engage with the ADB and NSRUDP project teams about stressing on safeguards, social and environmental impact, financing, monitoring and reporting.

In closing, Minister Aliklik urges the public to play their part in conserving energy and adopt sustainable practices. "Together, let us ensure that our utility remains resilient, efficient, and capable of meeting the needs of present and future generations." //

To date, work on the land for the 2026 Micronesian Games stadium in Meneñ has reached 75 percent completion, while the Vital Firebreak Project at Tank Farm is 97 percent completed.

The public will also be informed of the process of ordering aggregates.

Minister Aliklik says NRC has been attending meetings involving the National Sustainable Resilience Urban Development Project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for projects on waste water management, sanitation and water storage. These projects are earmarked for NRC to prepare the groundwork.

In closing, the Minister said that this year, he looks forward in his capacity to continue building the future for Nauru.

The public can follow updates from NRC on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nrurehabcorp>

January parliament

Subsidiary legislation

Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea tabled the list of subsidiary legislations made within over the period from December 2024 to December 2025, 28 January.

Section 17(2) of the Interpretation Act 2011 requires the tabling of subsidiary legislation before parliament, as such the 36 pieces of subsidiary law were noted during the January parliament sitting.

The majority of the subsidiary legislation generally dealt with matters for the protection and safety of the people of Nauru and residents; ensure Nauru's economic resilience; and that Nauru's international obligations were met.

"This is evidence of government's commitment to make laws for the best interests of Nauru and for Nauru's development," Minister Aingimea said.

Banking

The government is mobilising the shift in banking providers from the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank (Agency) to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) by the third quarter.



CBA staff have already visited Nauru twice this year and the Department of Finance is in regular contact with CBA to provide ongoing coordination.

It is expected that the existing customer arrangements with Bendigo Agency will not differ in their future accounts with CBA.

The government is currently establishing a relationship with institutional banking at CBA, allowing accounts to be opened and transacting in Australian dollars, and international transactions in US dollars which is an improvement on services currently available.

In the second quarter the focus will shift towards supporting customers - businesses and individuals - to establish a relationship with CBA to meet banking needs, after which Bendigo accounts that are no longer required may be closed, although not mandatory.

The transition period of the two banks will end in the third quarter of 2025.

The new account establishment process involves opening a CBA customer file which will enable accounts to be added by the customer, and readily accessible by smartphone.

The existing ATMs will not be affected as a result of the transition; however, the CBA intends to provide new EFTPOS terminals to its new Nauru customers. //

Fisheries

During Parliament in January, the Minister for Nauru Fisheries and Maritime Resource Authority (NFMRA) said staff of the state-owned enterprise underwent vital training and awaiting implementation of projects worth millions.



Fisheries is an important source of food and income for the Nauruan people

The four-day training on the PNA Vessel Day Scheme (VNS), 20 to 24 January, was successfully completed under the guidance of two consultants.

"The training is based on the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) which is a digital platform that supports VDS implementation through features like e-reporting, vessel tracking, compliance monitoring, and data analysis," Minister Aliklik said.

A week prior to the VNS training, three NFMRA staff did a four-day online course on International Fisheries Law, funded by the FFA and conducted by the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resource and Security (ANCORS) of the University of Wollongong, between 13 to 17 January.

Minister Aliklik told parliament that the course provided legal knowledge, practical and policy expertise on international fisheries law, "focusing on frameworks for managing fisheries in national and high seas areas, enforcing rights combatting IUU, regional management organisations roles in conservation and resource management, port state, measures, labour standards, seafood traceability and so forth". //

January parliament

Sustainable, resilient urban development

The Nauru Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Project (NSRUDP) is Nauru's transformative project in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as the country's first reticulated fresh water supply system.



Departments collaborate to ensure project success

ADB-approved in September 2024 for a grant of US\$37.5 million, and complemented by the government's contribution of US\$2.3 million, the project will improve quality of life.

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience, Asterio Appi told the January sitting of parliament this ground-breaking infrastructure will service approximately 1200 households, representing 55 per cent of the population, connecting high density urban areas from Yaren to Baitisi districts.

“To ensure long-term success, we are strengthening our institutional foundations. This includes enhancing the enabling environment and operational capacity of our utilities, while focusing on financial sustainability and resilience of urban services,” Minister Appi said.

The system will include new water storage reservoirs, a pump station, and a comprehensive water transfer system linking existing desalination plants to the new reticulation network.

In addressing public health and environmental sustainability, Minister Appi said the government is implementing significant sanitation improvements.

These include a new septage treatment plant with biosolids reuse potential, the decommissioning of the existing national sanitation facility, and the development of a comprehensive on-site sanitation system assessment and maintenance scheme.

ADB project specialists recently concluded a visit during which they worked on finalising the draft memorandum of understanding for the implementation of stage two. //



Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Minister Charmaine Scotty updated parliament on the recent progress of the Ministry of Health & Medical Services including medical visits, nurses training, and agreements to enhance services and infrastructure.



Health and traditional medicine to enhance healthcare options

The visit by the traditional Chinese medicine team from Xi'an Hospital, 16-19 January was a successful mission, with over 92 patients treated in the two days.

The initiative is seen to have potential to enhance healthcare options in Nauru. Discussions are ongoing to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Xi'an Hospital, the Nauru Public Health department and the Department for Health and Medical Services.

Currently, Nauru does not have a formal legislation governing traditional medicine practices therefore plans with the health and justice departments are underway to establish a regulatory framework that will protect both practitioners and patients, ensuring safe and responsible practice of traditional medicine in Nauru.

Meanwhile, a medical team from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), specialising in ear, nose, and throat (ENT) services, is scheduled to visit in March.

These services are vital for diagnosing and treating various conditions that impact quality of life, and can significantly help those with limited access to such specialised care.

Interested individuals can obtain further information at RON Hospital.

The mission has the backing of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, highlighting ongoing international efforts to enhance healthcare access in Nauru, particularly in areas lacking local expertise or resources.

The Minister also noted that five RON hospital nurse aides have been admitted to a Bachelor of Nursing course in Fiji. They departed on 6 February to begin enrolment processes. This marks a significant step towards building local nursing capacity that could lessen the dependence on foreign medical staff and improve long-term healthcare results.

The Department of Health & Medical Services and the Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand signed an MOU with particular focus around building capacity in eye health.



National Awards

The Department of Education and Training kicks off the new year with renewed focus and determination to propel Nauru towards a resilient and sustainable future.

Minister Asterio Appi stated in parliament in January the department's policies and programs have focused on addressing key challenges while laying the groundwork for long term success.

In the past year, significant progress was noted in improved infrastructure with new classrooms and extensive refurbishments ensuring safer and more conducive learning environments for students and staff.

Also, an additional 22 scholarships were awarded to years eight and 12 providing the opportunity to pursue diversified and higher education abroad.

Two new positions at the Fiji and Brisbane missions were also created to support this expansion.

Expanding teaching capacity has addressed classroom overcrowding and improved student-teacher ratios and greater diversity in learning pathways.

A dedicated unit was also established to oversee the welfare of both local and expatriate teachers, and a remuneration package introduced to reflect qualifications and attract high-calibre educators.

Moving forward this year, the department priorities lie in strengthening foundational skills with diagnostic assessments held in the first four weeks of school for years two and three.

Building strong partnerships with parents, communities, and stakeholders for a united support system, and leveraging technology into the classrooms will remain a key focus to bridge gaps and enhance learning outcomes.

The department is improving its collaboration with industries to monitor supply and demand and track progress for TVET and tertiary pathways.

The existing teaching staff will also be transitioned from certificate level to diploma. While Christian values and cultural identity are values that will be reflected in the schools as the foundation of the nation. //

Supplementary Appropriation Bill #3, 2024-25

The Supplementary Appropriation budget recognises \$5 million from the balance of the Nauru-Australia Treaty's \$20 million budget support. Fifteen million of that funding had already been disbursed by Australia to cover the remaining of Nauru's contribution for the Intergenerational Trust Fund, leaving the balance of \$5 million.

This appropriation commits the \$5m to urgent priority expenditure including the Fiscal Cash Buffer to address any unforeseen pressures for the remainder of this financial year; allocation to the Chief Secretary office to cover increased expenses relating to overtime, house rental for expatriate staff and fuel costs.

Fisheries is also allocated funds for staff back-payment, as well as for emergency services, the departments of environment, border control, and Brisbane consulate to cover increased operational costs.

The Nauru Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is also recommended to set up its own budget head from an allocation under the justice department. This is essential to ensure its operational independence as required by the Anti Money Laundering and Targeted Financial Sanctions Act 2003.

As these changes involved only reallocations between budgetary head, there will be no impact on the overall budget bottom line. Funding of \$148,000 will be reallocated from the justice secretariat to the new FIU.

After expenditures, the revised budget leaves a balance of \$200,000 for the year. //

Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2025

There are two amendments made to the Act.

The first amendment is to Section 23 of the Electoral Act 2016, which removes the requirement of the two thirds majority of the parliament to remove an electoral commissioner from office. This power now lies with the Cabinet.

The grounds for removing an electoral commissioner from office includes incapacity, incompetence, negligence, misconduct or failure to maintain confidentiality.

The second amendment is to Section 42 of the Act, which relates to the functions of the Electoral Commission in respect of the transfers of voters' registration on the electoral roll and their constituency, in relation to Nauruan customs, customary links and affiliation.

This provision now removes the function and power from the Electoral Commission to review and decide if a person is entitled to be registered on a roll. The amendment now authorises the Cabinet to consider and grant applications of voters intending to register or transfer their registration under the roll.

However, the Electoral Commission will continue to receive the applications for transfer under this criterion. //

Vessel Registration Bill 2024

The introduction of the Vessel Registration Bill 2024 means the two other Acts dealing with the registration of vessels, previously in place are now repealed. These were the the Shipping Registration Act 1968 and the Shipping (Registration of Foreign) Vessels Act 2018.

The new Act, Vessel Registration Act 2024, consolidated the registries that exists under the two previous Acts. The intention is to ensure that in future there is only one registry which is located in Nauru. Prior to this, the shipping registry for foreign vessels is based in Singapore. The Government of Nauru was losing revenue by engaging a private entity to operate Nauru's shipping registry.

The current operator of Nauru's Shipping Registry is the Nauru Maritime Administration. The actual corporation is the Nauru Projects Limited.

The Bill is divided into nine separate parts. Part 1 provides for the preliminary provisions which are normal for all Bills, while part 2 provides for the interpretation provisions, and part 3 provides for the Administration provisions of the Bill.

There is provision also for a temporary pass to be given to certain vessels for special voyage. This is currently already in practice. There are certain vessels which are

not to be registered. This includes vessels used for storage of illegal drugs and stolen goods, people smuggling, wars and armed conflict, civil unrest, terrorism, proliferation or activities in support of terrorism or anything contrary to the Nauruan laws.

Part 5 of the Bill provides for the rights and obligations of Nauruan flagged vessels; part 6 for enforcement of the Bill.

The very nature of this Bill allows for extra-territorial jurisdiction to Nauruan courts. In case of offences, vessels are liable to be seized or forfeited.

The general offences include giving misleading information, hindering an officer, improperly assuming Nauruan nationality and giving false information to an authorised officer regarding the vessel.

Part 7 provides for the requirement to keep records, sharing and disclosure of information with relevant institutions, departments and law enforcement agencies.

Part 8 provides for the miscellaneous matters and part 9 contains repeals and transitional matters. //

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



*Office Contact:
Government Information Office
Government Offices
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru
Email: gio.nauru@gmail.com
Telephne: +674 557-3009
Web: www.nauru.gov.nr*