

PWWA NEWSLETTER

01st Edition, 01st January – 31st March 2024



AUSTRALIAN
WATER
ASSOCIATION

Australian Water Association

(source AWA)

AWA has released a short feature video, highlighting the water sector challenges our international partners, including PWWA, TWB, and Solomon Water, are facing in our region, and how AWA and our members are working together with them to build resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

We are proud to be working with such passionate international and Australian partners, and we are proud of this video and the story it tells.

"We are all striving for a common goal: building long-lasting relationships and a better water future for our region."
- Lusia Sefo-Leau, Pacific Water and Wastewater Chief Executive Officer.

We want to particularly thank you [Pitolau Lusia Sefo Leau](#), and the [Pacific Water & Wastewater team](#), for being such wonderful partners in this work.

Together, we'll create strategies to combat water sector climate challenges and ensure access to clean water for generations to come.

[#SustainableWaterForAll](#) [#ClimateAction](#)
[#AustralianWaterAssociation](#) [#AustralianWaterPartnership](#)

[Australian Water Partnership](#)
[Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#)
[Solomon Water](#)
[Tonga Water Board](#)
[Goulburn Valley Water](#)
[Unitywater](#)
[Hội Cấp Thoát nước Việt Nam](#)
[Công ty Cổ phần Cấp thoát nước Cần Thơ](#)
[Cassowary Coast Regional Council](#)
[Urban Utilities](#)
[Perpamsi - Persatuan Perusahaan Air Minum Seluruh Indonesia](#)
[TasWater](#)
[Yarra Valley Water](#)
[Hoa Binh Clean Water Company](#)
[PT. Air Minum Giri Menang \(Lombok\)](#)
[Tirta Musi Palembang City](#)

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We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing the video to ensure that it reaches as wide an audience as possible. Here are the links to share:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7176692212028649472>

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/qYpNODOqwi/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4ypuuNiaM4/>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/V76rLn0KZNI>

TikTok:

https://www.tiktok.com/@awa_water/video/7348735446668676359?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7283651355855390210



Chuuk Public Utility Corporation

(source Chuuk Public Utility Corporation)

Water and Sanitation Project

The Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project (CWSSP) is a major investment by CPUC in its water and sewerage services for the residents of main island of Weno and neighboring island of Tonoas.

Funded by a US\$35M grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) the project will refurbish and expand CPUC water and sewerage infrastructure but most importantly it is developing the capacity of CPUC to implement operate and deliver improved services to all its customers.

It is anticipated that the full grant will have been expended by the end of 2027. Specific objectives of the project are:

1. Water service coverage increased to 85% from around 30%.
2. New surface water treatment plant – 264,000 gallons per day.
3. Water losses reduced from 50% to 30%.
4. 8.2 miles of water main.
5. Sewer service coverage via on-site sanitation will increase coverage by 30%.
6. Upgrades to the Weno Sewer Treatment Plant.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established under the project resourced by CPUC staff to deliver the project. The PMU is headed by a senior CPUC manager with land survey and geotechnical teams that have been trained up to provide technical and engineering input to the detailed designs. In line with CPUC aspiration to become a gender balanced organization a gender specialist is a key member of the PMU project team with targets to ensure compliance to ADB and CPUC social safeguards program. The PMU is also supported by a team of advisors experienced in engineering, contract administration, project management, environmental protection, gender, social safeguards, and stakeholder management and community awareness.

Key achievements to date:

1. Project Management Unit fully established headed by a local project manager.
2. Geotechnical equipment and local staff trained to use geotechnical equipment.
3. Well drilling equipment and local staff trained to use equipment.
4. Land survey equipment and local staff trained to use equipment.
5. GIS equipment and local staff trained in GIS hardware and software use.
6. New land valuation pricing that includes dividend payments based on water sales to private landowners.

Contracts signed for:

1. 8.2 miles of water pipeline replacement and expansion – USD\$6.7M
2. Upgrades to Weno Sewer Treatment Plant – USD\$348K
3. Procurement of prepaid and automatic read water meters – USD\$592K

Bids in progress for:

New water treatment plant – USD\$4M

Designs completed for:

1. New boreholes in Epinup & Wichap with storage tank and pipeline to customers
2. New storage tanks in Neauo, Nepukos and Nantaku

To increase CPUC operational efficiency and resilience there have been improvements and upgrades to a number of key operational systems:

1. GIS mapping of all facilities.
2. IT hardware and software upgraded.
3. Financial systems upgrades.
4. New HR Software.

CPUC have also coordinated essential surveys throughout the community to assess willingness and affordability to pay for services in Weno. A detailed house-to-house water and sewer connection survey was also recently completed. Mapping of existing and future customers has recently been undertaken, the results from which will feed into the network and metering improvements program.

Project Oversight is provided through a Steering committee made up of key stakeholders in Chuuk including representatives for all branches of government as well as NGO's and community-based organizations. Decisions on priorities for investment have been made through discussion with stakeholders to ensure consensus.

The capacity building of CPUC staff is already of huge benefit in the implementation of other investment projects in water and power service expansion beyond Weno and Tonoas funded through World Bank and EU.





(source MÖRK Water)

Moerk Water staff have had a very busy start to the year after returning from a well-deserved break at the end of 2023. One of our first projects was commissioning a Moerk Water Central Sterile Supply Department Reverse Osmosis unit for a local private hospital – this unit provides the hospital with ultrapure sterile water for cleaning medical equipment. This project was complicated by the client requested a very short turnaround time which Moerk Water engineers were still able to meet. The system is now fully operational and has recently passed certification. Our engineers have also been busy preparing community seawater desalination units for communities in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Here are a few other things Moerk Water staff have been up to since the start of the year:

Papua New Guinea trip



Our director of international business development, Barbara Brezger, travelled to Papua New Guinea in February to meet with local stakeholders and discuss potential solutions to local water issues. While in PNG, Barbara met with the governor of Central Province, Madam Rufina Peter and discussed renewable energy powered water treatment solutions for coastal communities facing salinity intrusion, inland communities facing contamination of existing wells with heavy metals and microbiological species and communities reliant on river water who are at risk of upstream pollution and seasonal turbidity changes.

Whilst in PNG, Barbara attended the dedication ceremony for the newly installed Moerk Water solar powered water treatment system in the Kiru farming community. The unit, pictured above, uses two stage chemical free disinfection filtration to produce drinking water and agricultural water from a biologically contaminated well. The containerised system contains storage tanks and was installed remotely using local support.

National Hydrogen Industry Technical Masterclass



Our Director of Water Chemistry, Dr Mat Francis, was asked to deliver a lecture on different water treatment methods for producing ultrapure water for hydrogen electrolyzers as part of the National Hydrogen Industry Technical Masterclass jointly run by Engineers Australia, The Australian Institute of Energy and the Hydrogen Society of Australia. Moerk Water has extensive experience designing water treatment systems for the hydrogen industry. Green hydrogen is becoming an important part of the renewable energy mix in Australia, allowing for energy from solar and wind power to be stored and pumped to other locations. Many green hydrogen projects purify wastewater to feed the electrolyzers and are powered by renewable energy.

PWWA board meeting



Lastly, our General Manager, Richard Ashley, attended the PWWA Board meeting in Sydney in February. He was excited to catch up with his fellow board members and discuss how the PWWA can continue to support utilities in the Pacific. The meeting also discussed the upcoming PWWA conference in Cook Islands – which Moerk Water are excited to be attending.

KING-TIDE & COASTAL FLOODING: TUVALU

(source ABC Pacific)

Tuvalu is on the front line of the effects of climate change, and residents of the low-lying island fear their home will be “wiped off its place on the map”.

The low-lying island is widely considered one of the first places to be significantly impacted by rising sea levels, caused by climate change.

On February 20th, Tuvalu has been experiencing extreme high tides recently, causing coastal inundation and flooding, mostly in areas that have never experienced these impacts.

The Tuvalu Meteorological Service said the event was quite unusual, particularly given the areas impacted.

“We can see that it’s a very extreme event. We’ve seen that it’s different compared to the previous years, so before this event ... we can see the different level of the tide,” said Simoea Tiute, data and communication officer with the Tuvalu Meteorological Service.

“From my experience, this is my first time to see those areas [flooded]. In the previous years, they are hardly affected by the king tide or the high tide.”

Locals also said the spring tides this year in Tuvalu have been the worst so far.

The tides are expected to recede, with more due in March.

SEVERE FLOOD IN FIJI

(source RNZ)

The Water Authority in Fiji faced a dual challenge during heavy rainfall: “**aging pipes and escalating rainfall intensity.**”

Chief Executive Dr. Amit Chanan says that the catchment area supplying Suva has witnessed a notable increase in heavy rainfall events.

“The upgrading infrastructure is crucial. When there is a big rain event, the rainfall brings in a lot of silt and blocks our intake structure. These structures were built during colonial times; these structures were built in the ’50s, so there was no intensity, so we have to look at how we manage this.

Through the Water Sector 2050 strategy, we are putting forward to the government and to development partners a pathway that says they can do adaptation provided there is investment in the right type of infrastructure.” says the CEO.

A flash flood warning was remained in force for all flood prone areas in Vanua Levu and Viti Levu and the whole of Fiji. Even a small amount of rain caused a flooding because the soil was saturated.

All schools, tertiary education institutions, government offices, and the courts were closed due to the adverse weather conditions.

FLOOD & EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 6.7 STRIKES PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(source News Agencies)

While the remote western region is already dealing with floods from earlier this month an earthquake of 6.7 magnitude struck the same side of the Country. Several people have died and some 1,000 homes have been destroyed.

The quake rocked the East Sepik region at about 6:20am on Sunday (20:20 GMT on Saturday) near the town of Ambunti, about 756km (470 miles) northwest of the capital, Port Moresby.

East Sepik Governor Allan Bird wrote on Facebook that the tremor had “damaged most parts of the province”.

“Sadly, we have several casualties already,” he said, adding that authorities were “still assessing the impact” but about 1,000 homes had so far been “lost”.

Early reports put the death toll to at least three, while provincial police commander Christopher Tamari told the AFP news agency on Monday that at least five deaths had been recorded and warned the number could be higher as rescue efforts continued.

Dozens of villages located on the banks of the country’s Sepik River were already battling widespread flooding from earlier in March when the quake struck.

Photos showed damaged wooden houses with thatched roofs collapsing into the surrounding knee-high floodwaters, while an ageing bridge in the provincial capital of Wewak buckled under the strain.

“The flooding actually covers an area more than 800km (497 miles) long, and so there’s about maybe 60 or 70 villages involved all along the Sepik River,” Bird told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Monday.

“The floods weren’t their biggest problem. They were confidently dealing with that because it’s something they’re used to,” Bird said. “It was the earthquake that no one was prepared for. That would have caused the most significant damage now.”

Bird said there was a pressing need to get medical supplies, clean drinking water and temporary shelter into the disaster zone.

Earthquakes are common in Papua New Guinea, which sits on top of the seismic “Ring of Fire” – an arc of intense tectonic activity that stretches through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.



Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment – SAMOA

(source MNRE)

The 16th Annual WASH Review

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) held its 16th Annual WASH Review as it plays a critical role in improving public health, enhancing livelihoods, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Each year, the WASH Annual Review provides a comprehensive overview of progress and challenges in achieving universal access to clean water, adequate sanitation, and good hygiene practices.

The program started off with the welcoming remarks by the Acting ACEO of the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Coordination Division Ms. Perise Kerlake. Then later followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Fuaao Fetalaiga Fuimaono and keynote delivered by the Ministry of Natural, Resources and Environment Chief Executive Officer Afioga Lealaisalanoa Reupena Frances Brown.

The [Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association Afioga Pitolau Lusia Sefo Leau](#), cut the ribbon to launch the WASH Sector Performance Review Report for FY21/22, highlighting our progress, challenges, and renewed commitment to achieving universal access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Key presenters from the WASH subsector Implementing Agencies presented on the 6 ESPO outcomes and overview of their work:

ESPO 1: Water Resource Management Subsector – Ms. Emmarosa Romeo

ESPO 2: Water Supply Management Supply Subsector – Mr. Futialo Philip Kerlake & Ms. Clarissa Laulala

ESPO 3: Drinking Water Quality Subsector – Ms. Tuaifaiva Mele Tanielu

ESPO 4: Sanitation Subsector – Mr. David Elisara

ESPO 5: Flood Mitigation / Drainage Subsector – Mr. Etiseli Fauatea

ESPO 6: Sector Governance & Orientation Subsector – Mr. Anton Tofa

In the latest WASH Annual Review, several key themes have emerged. Firstly, there has been notable progress in expanding access to improved water sources. However, challenges remain in ensuring the sustainability of water supply systems, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Efforts to address these challenges include promoting community-led approaches, harnessing new technologies, and strengthening institutional capacity.

Sanitation remains a significant challenge, with significant number of people still lacking access to basic sanitation facilities.

The Annual Review highlights the need for innovative solutions, such as ecological sanitation and sanitation marketing, to accelerate progress towards universal access.

Annual Review underscores the importance of hygiene promotion in preventing diseases and improving overall well-being. It emphasizes the need for behaviour change interventions, education programs, and access to handwashing facilities, especially in healthcare settings and schools.

As the event concluded, the WASH Annual Review emphasizes the importance of sustainable financing and governance for achieving lasting impact. It calls for increased investments in WASH infrastructure, capacity building for local institutions, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to drive progress.

In conclusion, while significant strides have been made in the WASH sector, much work remains to be done to achieve universal access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. The Annual Review serves as a valuable tool for identifying priorities, tracking progress, and mobilizing action towards this important goal.



ADB ADB Water and Urban Development

(source ADB)

The ADB WASH in the Pacific Technical Assistance project and the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) on Wednesday 28 February 11:00am Sydney/12:00pm Suva/08:00am Manila for the first Pacific WASH Webinar for 2024 on Water Tariffs in the Pacific: A current snapshot of issues.

Hear from water regulation and tariff specialists from Fiji and the Federated States of Micronesia as they discuss water tariff structures, how these are set, and how regulators work with governments and utilities to ensure adequate access to water and sanitation services for all. The webinar will also explore the challenges and opportunities that affect water utilities' business viability, and the design of pro-poor tariffs.

[#WASH](#) [#Pacific](#) [#Webinar](#) [#watertariffs](#) [#waterfinance](#) [#SDG6](#) [#water](#)

Pacific WASH
WEBINARS

ADB

Water Tariffs in the Pacific
A current snapshot of issues

28 FEBRUARY 2024

8:00am Manila | 11:00am Sydney | 12:00pm Suva
Register at link below

SPEAKERS

- Seymour Singh
Chief Strategic & Information Officer
Water Authority of Fiji
- Kasio "Kambo" Mide Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Chuuk Public Utility Corporation
- Joel Abraham
Chief Executive Officer
Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Kaveel Prasad
Chief Financial Officer
Water Authority of Fiji
- Bronwyn Powell - Facilitator
WASH Advisor & Pacific WASH TA
Team Leader
Asian Development Bank

[Water Authority of Fiji](#) [Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING TWINNING PARTNERSHIP: SAMOA WATER AUTHORITY/MAYNILAD WATER FUNDED BY ADB.

Officials from [Samoa Water Authority](#) (SWA), led by CEO Fuimaono Dominic Schwalger, and [Maynilad Water Academy](#), led by Executive Director Dora Gamboa, met with [Asian Development Bank's](#) Water and Urban Development Director for Southeast and Pacific Neeta Pokhrel, and Principal Water Security Specialist Allison Woodruff to discuss ways to build capacity and resilience of water and sanitation utilities in the region.

SWA and Maynilad are engaged in a twinning partnership under ADB's Water Organizations Partnership for Resilience (WOP4R) program: <https://www.adb.org/projects/55064-005/main>





Pacific Water and Wastewater Association

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP & BOARD MEETING

The Secretariat held their Q1 Board meeting and Communications Strategy Workshop at the Hydroflux head office in Sydney.

As the peak body for the Pacific water sector, our mission is to strengthen advocacy, collaboration and capacity building for sustainable and resilient water and sanitation among the Pacific Island nations.

Thank you to our board members for actively participating in this co-creation exercise to build our strategy and the communications programme for the future, alongside our volunteer Communications Advisor Moumita Das Roy.

It was two very productive days with a comprehensive mix of board members, from the Pacific North and South, large, medium and small utilities, women, men and industry practitioners, a unique mix of voices.

Thanks to the [Board Secretary Paul Cobbin and his team at Hydroflux](#) for hosting us.

Together, we stand for sustainable water and sanitation for Pasifika.

[#Sustainability](#) [#Pasifika](#) [#SustainableWater](#) [#ClimateChange](#) [#WasteWater](#)



Upcoming Events

EVENTS	DATE
1. ADB/Pacific WASH Webinar <i>“Equity and Affordability of access to Water – How Utilities provide affordable water services”</i>	17 th April
2. Australian Water Conference – Melbourne.....	30 th April – 02 nd May
3. Government of Samoa Independence Day.....	01 st June
4. ADB/Pacific WASH Webinar <i>“Water Licensing, Land & Water Access”</i>	05 th June
5. ADB/Pacific WASH Webinar <i>“Water Utility Asset condition assessment to improve operational and financial performance”</i>	07 th August
6. Pacific Water & Wastewater Conference – Cook Islands.....	02 nd -06 th September
7. New Zealand Water Conference – Claudelands Kirikiriroa Hamilton.....	25 th – 27 th September
8. Fiji Day.....	10 th October
9. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2024 – Samoa.....	21 st – 25 th October
10. Tonga Constitution Day 2024.....	4 th November
11. 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29).....	11 th – 24 th November
12. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2024.....	25 th November



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