October 16, 2012

**Comments from Australia on the Approval by Mail: PPCR Samoa: Enhancing Climate Resilience for West Coast Road Project (IBRD)**

Dear all,

We would like to congratulate the Government of Samoa and IBRD for a well written proposal. The proposal complements other national infrastructure projects and NAPA priorities. The involvement of the same steering committee and the inclusion of project management technical assistance should ensure coordination. While we have no objection to the project moving to the next phase, have a few suggestions for consideration during implementation:

· While the document provides a good overview, it is hard to discern whether sufficient information exists to support the climate change analysis for Components 1 and 2. As presented, it does not appear that any new information will be gathered, although there is reference to a 'hydrology and hydraulic review' for the drainage sites selected for Component 1 (top page 21). As such, it is hard to understand whether the impact information will be available to inform the project works and development of the strategy.
· The technical appraisal (paras 45-47) could include more details. It refers only to international design standards, and previous work by the World Bank (of which we'd welcome copies). Without sighting this information, it is hard to tell whether this in itself provides a sufficient technical basis for a $14m investment.
· The approach outlined for Component 2 is good, and may align with work already underway by Australia's Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) project (specifically to support climate resilient infrastructure development, about which Australia has been engaging with Government of Samoa counterparts, World Bank and ADB – amongst others). We'd welcome the opportunity to discuss further, use of data and modelling that is proposed for development under the PACCSAP – available in June 2013. This entails the collection of high resolution topographic and bathymetric imagery around Apia Harbour and also at the international airport and port at Mulifanua – which is a fundamental input for understanding the impacts from storm surge. While PACCSAP is not able to obtain this imagery for the whole coastline, it may provide some opportunity for the World Bank to model impacts at selected sites (Vaitele-Fale'ula area, for example). Separately, CSIRO has been modelling extreme high tide values for Apia, which can be used for inundation modelling, or more complex wave impact modelling, should the World Bank wish to incorporate this into the WCR project.

Kind regards

Esther Ewagata
Program Manager | Climate Change Policy and Adaptation | AusAID