



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

## BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING AND THE RAKAHANGA ISLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### INTRODUCTION

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides an Agreement set out below between

- Her Majesty, the Queen in Right of the Government of the Cook Islands through Ms. Donye Numa, the Acting Secretary of the **Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP)**, and;
- The **Rakahanga Island Council**, through the Deputy Mayor Mr Neti Tarau and;
- Her Majesty, the Queen in Right of the Government of the Cook Islands through Mr Taunga Tuteru, Island Secretary, **Rakahanga Island Administration**.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to affirm the responsibilities of MOIP and the respective Islands local Governments (Island Councils and Island Administrations) during the implementation of the New Zealand Government-funded Northern Group Water Project on the islands of Penrhyn, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau and Manihiki.

### BACKGROUND

- During the 2004-2005 cyclone season, five cyclones struck the Cook Islands causing widespread damage to infrastructure on most islands. This led to the \$10-million NZAID-funded 2007-2010 Cyclone Recovery and Reconstruction Programme (CRRP).

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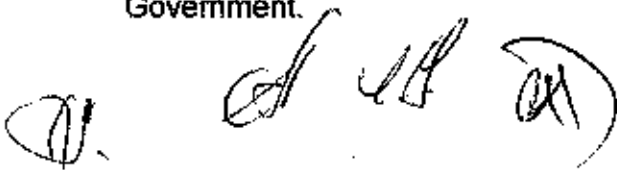
- A sustainable water supply system underlies the viability of communities in the Outer Islands of the Cook Islands. The limited economic opportunities on the Outer Islands together with isolation and the migration in population have been attributed in part to the lack of sustained potable water supply systems domestically and within the community. Each island has unique resources and local governance arrangements.
- Rainwater is the main source of potable water supply for Penrhyn, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau and Manihiki and collected from roofs of residential houses and community buildings using purpose-built collection and storage systems. The stock of tanks, guttering, downpipes and roofing on these islands are in diverse conditions, from functional to a state of disrepair.
- Groundwater from open wells is a supplement to rainwater and primarily used for non-potable purposes. Since many groundwater wells are within village areas, these are likely to be subjected to pollution and contamination from septic tanks and other sources and require boiling to be potable.
- The aim of the Northern Group Water Project is to improve the adequacy and reliability of supply, ensure a sustainable system is in place to ensure longevity of the Project and importantly safety of potable water by increasing rainwater collection and storage capacity in order to improve the resilience to natural disasters (including droughts) and strengthening disaster management capabilities. Along with capacity building, a flexible contract approach (i.e. supply and install, measure and value) has been chosen to allow improvements to be adapted to specific situational need.
- In order to stretch the Project funds available (\$2,200,000) across the five islands of Penrhyn, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau and Manihiki, the Project has prioritised islands in terms of their relative water needs.
- A minimum water service standard of 6,000 litres storage for up to 6 occupants per eligible household is used to determine household level entitlements. Through a partnership approach, the Project seeks to build collective responsibilities and encourage actions (including own financial contributions) by local households and communities.
- The Islands local Governments are key stakeholders in optimising the impact and benefit of Project activities on each island. Conditions of funding require that arrangements for future repairs and maintenance of these rainwater collection and storage systems is agreed in writing for each island, before materials get delivered and the Project implemented by the Contractor.

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## **THE AGREEMENT**

### **The Responsibilities of the Rakahanga Island Local Government & Island Administration**

- Consult and advise island residents and also non-residents as necessary on the Project goals and entitlements.
- Foster scaling up of water improvements by advocating for homeowner's contribution to the costs of improvements, particularly on roof structures (i.e. rafters, purlins and claddings).
- Broker arrangements with households and communities to clarify ownership and responsibility for future maintenance of these improved rainwater systems.
- Facilitate the work of Romanidesigns Ltd, MOIP's appointed Project Manager, to set up community awareness and training, groundwater monitoring, assess and contract works and oversee the works of the contractor. The contractor shall be fully responsible to MOIP through its appointed Project Manager.
- Waive literage, costs of transportation, plant, equipment and machineries including operators related to the supply of local materials for tank bases (sand, gravel and rocks) when required as part of the Cook Islands Government 'in-kind' contribution to the Project.
- Develop a work-plan including budget covering existing community rainwater systems improvements and provide these to the MOIP for approval.
- Consider the most appropriate and cost-effective approach for exceptional repairs (e.g. major roof repairs) to homeowners and recommend action to the MOIP for consideration. Such repairs will however be subject to funding available, PMC approval and the completion of priority areas.
- Fund and perform all future maintenance of all community rainwater systems improved by this Project through the normal Operational and CAPEX budgeting process of the Pukapuka / Nassau Island local Government.



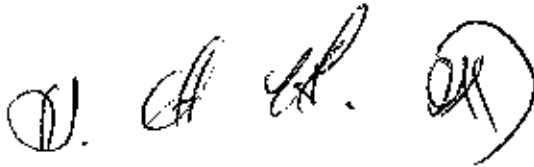
- Develop Water Safety Plans (assisted by the Ministry of Health – Public Health Division) and local rain and groundwater monitoring systems in a manner to sustain local data collection after Project completion.

#### **The Responsibilities of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning**

- Responsible for the process of developing a National Water Policy for all the Cook Islands in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
- Provide a Technical Assistant (Ngateina Rani, ph 20321 / 78599) based in the MOIP, to manage the CRRP Programme including this Project.
- Support the Pukapuka / Nassau Island local Government with budget estimates and survey data relevant to decision making.
- Finance and manage the Contractors to deliver all approved improvements under this Project within the 2011 calendar year and prior to the 2011-2012 cyclone season.
- Approve and finance improvements on existing community rainwater systems according to negotiated and approved Penrhyn Island local Government work-plans and budget estimates.
- Provide a Project Manager (Romanidesigns Ltd) to oversee the Project implementation and report back on the progress.
- Provide funding from the Project to partner Agencies to deliver educational and awareness training activities such as water safety plans (i.e. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Education), basic maintenance of rainwater systems (i.e. contractor/plumbers), water conservation and water monitoring (i.e. schools, Cook Islands Red Cross, Meteorological Service, uniform organisations and other relevant Island agents).
- Manage the Project using an open and transparent decision-making process with the inclusion of local communities and their representatives.

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Any variation to this Agreement shall be made in writing and with the agreement of both parties.
- The minimum water service standard is based on water storage allocation of 1,000-litres per person and a baseline number of occupants of 6 per household. On the household scale, this minimum water service standard is set at 6,000-litres of storage. This 6,000-litres storage can either be in the form of a single 6,000-litre polyethylene tank or double 3,000-litre polyethylene tanks.
- Those eligible households with additional 2 to 4 occupants above the baseline number of occupants may be entitled to an additional 3,000-litre polyethylene tank.
- Eligible households are only those occupied households that do not meet the minimum service standard. Ineligible households are those that are either unoccupied or have already met the minimum service standard.
- All eligible households are listed in the Eligible and Approved Household Listing attached to this MOU as Appendix 1.




**EXECUTION**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorised to act for and on behalf of their respective Organisations, have signed this Arrangement as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Government of the Cook Islands by Ms. Donye Numa, as Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning**

**Signed for and on behalf of the Rakahanga Island Council by the Mayor, Mr Neti Tarau**


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Signature

  
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Signature

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Witness

  
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**Signed for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Government of the Cook Islands by Mr. Taunga Tuteru, as Island Secretary, Rakahanga Island Administration**

  
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Signature

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**APPENDIX 1**

**ELIGIBLE AND APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS LISTING**

Building Ref No.	No. of people	Island / village	Tanker Qty 8000L - 3000L	Roof Dimension			Facia & spouting	Down Pipes Length (8m)	Remarks
				Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m2)			
<b>RESIDENTIAL HOUSES - need water tanks, fascia board, spouting</b>									
RAK 1	2	Benapa Tupou	1				15	1	
RAK 2	3	Catholic residence	1	13	8	117	15	1	
RAK 3		CIOC Residence	1						
RAK 4	1	Edward Peterason	1					1	
RAK 5		Taklipo Heralal	1					1	
RAK 6	2	Kalngata Timoti	1			0	8	1	
RAK 7	5	Lal Narayan	1	15	10	150	15	1	
RAK 8	2	Mahia Tupou	1	11	6	66	11	1	
RAK 9	2	Nita Aporo	1					1	
RAK 10	1	Ngano Koteka	1			0	8	1	
RAK 11	2	Philip Reubens Jnr	1						
RAK 12	1	Repalo Aporo	1	8	6	48	8	1	
RAK 13	1	Soma Pater	1	14	10	140	10	1	
RAK 14		SDA Residence	1						
RAK 15	2	Takal Temu	1					1	
RAK 16	2	Taura Temu	1	7	7	49	7	1	
RAK 17	3	Temu Hagal	1			0	10	1	
RAK 18	1	Tara Tolnaki	1			0	20	1	
RAK 19	4	Tharini	1	21	10	210	11	1	
RAK 20	2	Tomoko Bah	1	15	12	180	13	1	
RAK 21	9	Toto Salfiano	1	12	8	108	26	1	
RAK 22	1	Valteru Makira	1	7	4	28	8	1	
<b>RESIDENTIAL HOUSES - REROOFING</b>									
RAK 23	4	Amosa / David Greg	1	12	10	120	12	1	
RAK 24	3	Anale Araklangi	1	18	6.5	104	16	1	
RAK 25	5	Aporo Pihio	1	19	10	190	10	1	
RAK 26	2	Hagal Takal	1	11	8	88	11	1	
RAK 27	4	Kirilora Isidai	1					1	
RAK 28	1	Kimo Temu	1			0	16	1	
RAK 29	2	Letu Akeloa	1	27	10	270	14	1	
RAK 30	3	Neti Tarau	1					1	
RAK 31	6	Ngatengata Tokal	1	11	11	121	14	1	
RAK 32	4	Nalika Tuleru	1	11	7	77	12	1	
RAK 33	6	Paolo Peralo	1	13	9	39	13	1	
RAK 34	2	Philip Reubens Jnr	1	9	5	45	11	1	
RAK 35	2	Pokipoki Flytwar	1			0		1	
RAK 36	4	Punetaru matolo	1					1	
RAK 37	2	Robert Sama	1	10	6	60	10	1	
RAK 38	2	Rua Pihio	1	18	13	208	16	1	
RAK 39	1	Semo Ruaria	1	12	6	72	9	1	
RAK 40	2	Taunga Toka	1			0	18	1	
RAK 41	1	Teokatal Greig	1					1	
RAK 42	1	Teruvaine Narayan	1	7	4	28	14	1	
RAK 43	2	Toka Tupou	1	15	6	90	15	1	
RAK 44	1	Taneva Valleru	1	8	6	54	8	1	
44	81		44	0	Re-roof area	5351.2	406	41	

*Handwritten signatures and notes:*  
 1. A large signature, possibly "Steve", with "Is Sec" written to its right.  
 2. A signature below it, possibly "H. Howard".  
 3. A signature to the left, possibly "Wagor".

Roof Paint area 1096