



**CHRIS BOWEN MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

MEDIA RELEASE

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AID PACKAGE A BOOST FOR MANUS ISLAND

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, today announced the first elements of the assistance package for Manus Province, comprising road upgrades, improved education and medical infrastructure, and support for economic development.

Mr Bowen said the Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) would work together to deliver this additional development assistance for Manus Island.

"When Australia and PNG agreed to open the Manus Island regional processing centre, we said that we wanted to ensure the arrangement would benefit all involved – especially the people of Manus Island," Mr Bowen said.

"Along with the opportunities associated with the regional processing centre, this assistance package will help promote economic development, as well as provide vital infrastructure for the local community.

"I would particularly like to thank PNG Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration Rimbink Pato for his ongoing support, and for the central role the Government of PNG has played in helping to develop this first tranche of assistance for the people of Manus Province."

The elements of the assistance package announced today include:

- Upgrading roads and other transport infrastructure;
- Health improvements, including renovations at Lorengau General Hospital and essential medical equipment worth about \$A230,000; and
- Improving the quality of education in Manus, including doubling Australia's commitment to education infrastructure between now and 2015.

Renovations will also be made to the roof at Lorengau market to support local economic development.

"These are the first elements of a broader assistance package for Manus Island," Mr Bowen said.

Australian and PNG officials will work to finalise details of this assistance as soon as possible.

"Of course, this will be done in consultation, as appropriate, with local stakeholders," Mr Bowen said.

Some components, particularly roads and transport infrastructure, will be informed by additional assessment work.

Australia's commitment to Manus is in line with the priorities of the PNG-Australia Partnership for Development and the PNG Government's own development plans.

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