



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

## **WATER RESOURCES DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

**Richard Molea**

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### **WATER RESOURCES DIVISION**

MINISTRY OF MINES, ENERGY & RURAL ELECTRIFICATION  
P.O. BOX G37  
HONIARA  
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tel: (677) 21521      Fax: (677) 25811

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## SUMMARY

Solomon Islands is rich and blessed with over abundance of water resources, however, water resources is critical and variable element in sustainable development. This is because water resources is not equally plentiful in all places, nor is water equally available at all times. Some areas, particularly small islands, have very limited water and some areas are drier than others. Drought was experienced from time to time as well. Meanwhile, the demand for water is increasing and becoming more complex. At the same time water must also be available for agricultural, commercial and industrial enterprises, mining and tourism, to promote the growth of the economy.

The Water Resources Division is charged with the responsibility to providing a comprehensive assessment or evaluation of the nation's water resources available for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses, and provision of energy development. Such assessments are carried out by the division through national hydrological monitoring programs. These programs involve monitoring of rivers and streams catchments identified for potential developments.

The program involves river flow and rainfall data collection, processing, storage, retrieval and publication of hydrological data. Publication covers quantity and quality for both surface water and groundwater. These data and related information are used in the planning and operation of water resources and other development projects. In addition these data forms the foundation upon which provincial and national plans can be made for the use of water resources for public supply, power generation, engineering designs, agricultural developments and flood frequency and hazard studies.

Hydrological and rainfall data collection are the most important component of water resources assessment however, insufficient funding allocation from the government, limited equipment available to collect data due to lack of spares and backup services, limited appropriate expertise, vandalism, little co-ordination among water related organisation, lack of workable policies and legislation and, access difficulty to customary lands for resource activities often made it difficult to maintain the activities.

The adoption of Ministry's Corporate Plan and Annual Work Plan and the intention of the government, through appropriate legal framework that resources such as water is protected from pollution and that the resource is developed for the benefit of the people of Solomon Islands was seen as right step towards effective implementation of work plans for the division. These two documents should provide the basis for proper budgetary and other logistic supports from the government in implementing water resources programs in Solomon Islands.

## **VISION**

Hydrological services are provided for proper management and utilisation of water resources of Solomon Islands to enhance social and economic development and the protection of population and property from natural hydrological hazards.

## **MISSION**

To provide the basis for the appropriate promotion, development, conservation and management of our natural non-living resources for social and economic betterment and enhancement, and through the understanding of natural systems, vulnerability to natural related hazards are reduced for the people of Solomon Islands.

## **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- Establish and upgrade national capacity in hydrology, hydrogeology, water governance and water resources assessment for improved water related services to rural and urban communities
- Establish a framework for assessment and management of national water resources
- Develop capacity for well founded technical advice to people of Solomon Islands on water resources and related natural hazards
- Establish legal framework in management and administration of water resources in Solomon Islands.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Water Resources Division of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification plays an important role in many aspects of the development of Solomon Islands. The division has duties and obligations in the field of management, assessment, exploitation and conservation of water resources, in the identification and mitigation against natural hazards such as floods, and in the establishment of a legal framework for the sound management and administration of water resources in the country.

#### **2.0 AIMS OF THE DIVISION**

In order to fulfil its duties and obligations, the division aims to:-

- a) establish and upgrade national capacity in hydrology water resources assessment to improve and provide water related services that are adequate and efficient services to rural and urban communities;
- b) establish a framework for assessment and management of national water resources in the country;
- c) develop capacity for well-founded technical advice to government and the people of Solomon Islands on water resources issues and related natural hazards; and
- d) establish a legal framework in the management and administration of water resources in Solomon Islands.

The training policy of the division must aim at establishing and upgrading national capacity to improve technical skills and efficiency levels. These have been pursued and incorporated into the divisional objectives under the division's staff development plan. In order to provide adequate and efficient services, the division undertakes to establish an organisational structure that will reflect the roles and functions of the division according to government policies and priorities.

#### **3.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION**

The general requirement for water resources assessment in the country is to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of its potential water resources. This will ensure proper hydrological services is provided in the country to enhance social and economic developments and through appropriate legislation and policies benefits from utilisation of the resource can be maximised.

Under the CNURA government policy translation and implementation framework, key expected outcomes in the water resources sector include (i) protection of water resources from all forms of pollution; (ii) ensure Solomon Islanders have access to clean and safe water supplies and (iii) review of SOEs (SIWA) to improve service delivery.

The specific functions of the division to achieve its objectives are:-

- a) to administer water related acts of parliament such as the River Water Act
- b) locate and assess groundwater resources available for exploitation and to provide adequate surface water resources information, both for purposes of domestic, industrial water supplies and irrigation;
- c) to evaluate stream flows suitable for potential hydroelectric power generation development;
- d) to assess flood flows and their frequency occurrences for various bridging, roading, river control projects; prevention and mitigation against water related natural hazards;
- e) to draft appropriate legislation and policy for proper management and administration of water resources in the country;
- f) to carry out hydrological investigation country wide
- g) to implement Integrated Water Resources Management in Solomon Islands
- h) to identify potential energy sources for development to meet the increasing industry energy needs

The division comprises:-

1. Directorate;
2. Hydrology;
3. Hydrogeology;
4. Policy and Management.

The function of the Directorate is of an organisational, administrative and managerial nature dealing directly with the objectives of the division, in the establishment of policy, the review of legislative documents and in co-ordination of divisional duties with efforts of other divisions, departments, ministries, regional and international organisations. It also deals with planning, establishment and recruitment.

The function of the Hydrology Section is to deal with the assessment of surface water for human consumption, energy generation, agricultural and industrial development and the mitigation of water related natural hazards in the country. The section also did water quality spot checks and advice on catchment hydrology, installation of hydrological loggers for water level, flow measurements and archiving of data.

The function of the Hydrogeology Section is to deal with the investigation, monitoring and assessment of potential groundwater for human consumption, agricultural and industrial development. The section also gives advice on ground water development and management to other institutions and the public.

The function of the Policy and Management Section is to deal with drafting of water resources policy and legislation. It also co-ordinate nation-wide water resource assessment and development projects with the co-operation of international and regional organizations in water resources activities. The section also facilitates community awareness to promote water policy and legislation.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **ORGANISATION AND STAFFING**

#### **1.0 ORGANISATION COMPOSITION**

In order to provide effective hydrological services in the country, the division must be developed with sufficient manpower and relevant technical skills and knowledge in the field of water resources. This is to ensure sound technical advice is provided in the assessment, management and utilisation of water resources in the country. In order to provide for the effective assessment, administration and management of water resources in the country the following are priority issues for the division to address:-

1. To upgrade the division in terms of manpower technical capacity and skills to provide adequate and efficient hydrological and hydro-geological services in the country; and
2. To strengthen national capacity to establish appropriate legislation and policy for the proper management and efficient administration of the country's water resources.

The division is continually reviewing the organisation to ensure it is service oriented. The activities of the division are controlled by the Director who is accountable to the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification. Manpower requirement is essential to actively and efficiently pursue and deliver the services and the functions of the division.

#### **2.0 PROVISION OF PROGRESSION**

Promotion within the division will be based on merit, qualifications, satisfactory service and the successful completion of probation or trial periods in the present post.

#### **3.0 PROVISION OF TRAINING**

There is on-the-job training but no formal in-service training courses and programs provided for some of the senior staff of the division. Such training includes short-term, workshops and long-term.

The objectives of these training are to improve the performance of personnel in their present grades, to prepare them for advancement to higher grades and to enable them to enjoy a career in the service. Training in the tertiary level has been based on the key areas of the water resources and its related sciences.

Trainings have been undertaken by serving officers in accordance with the training program of the division. In addition to hydrological related courses, all supervisory officers have been earmarked to attend Public Service courses offered at IPAM to acquaint themselves with the proper procedures in the service and administrative and managerial skills.



Table 1.0 – Trainings/Workshops attended by Water Resources Division Staff

Staff	Training/Qualification	Institution	Dates
Director of Water Resources	GEF Pacific IWRM Project Inception Meeting – First Regional Committee Meeting	Nadi, Fiji	14-18 September 2009
Deputy Director of Water Resources	GEF Pacific IWRM Project Inception Meeting – First Regional Committee Meeting	Nadi, Fiji	14-18 September 2009
	UNDP Sustainable Land Management Project Workshop	Honiara	4 – 6 March 2009
Senior Hydrologist	UNDP Sustainable Land Management Project Workshop	Honiara	4 – 6 March 2009
Senior Hydrogeologist	Strategic Corporate Planning Session	Honiara	15 & 17 June 2009
	7 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Association V (South West Pacific) working group on Hydrology	Bandun, Indonesia	14 – 18 December 2009
Senior Program Coordinator	IPAM Workshop on General Orders	Honiara	25 June 2009
	Records Management Workshop	Honiara	16 October 2009
Hydrological Officer	Strategic Corporate Planning Session	Honiara	15 & 17 June 2009
Hydrological Assistant Trainee	Strategic Corporate Planning Session	Honiara	15 & 17 June 2009

#### 4.0 RECRUITMENT

A staff replacement due to retirement was completed during this period. Following advice from Administration Support a direct recruitment process was made from applicants or previous vacancies to Water Resources Division. Deputy Director short-listed individuals and the successful one was notified to proceed with medical and police clearances. The vacant position is that of a Hydrological Assistant, L5/6. Submission to Public Service Division and awaiting placement will be made.

## 5.0 MANPOWER

Establishment organisational structure for the division is presented in the chart. The approved 2009 establishment chart is provided as Figure 1.0.

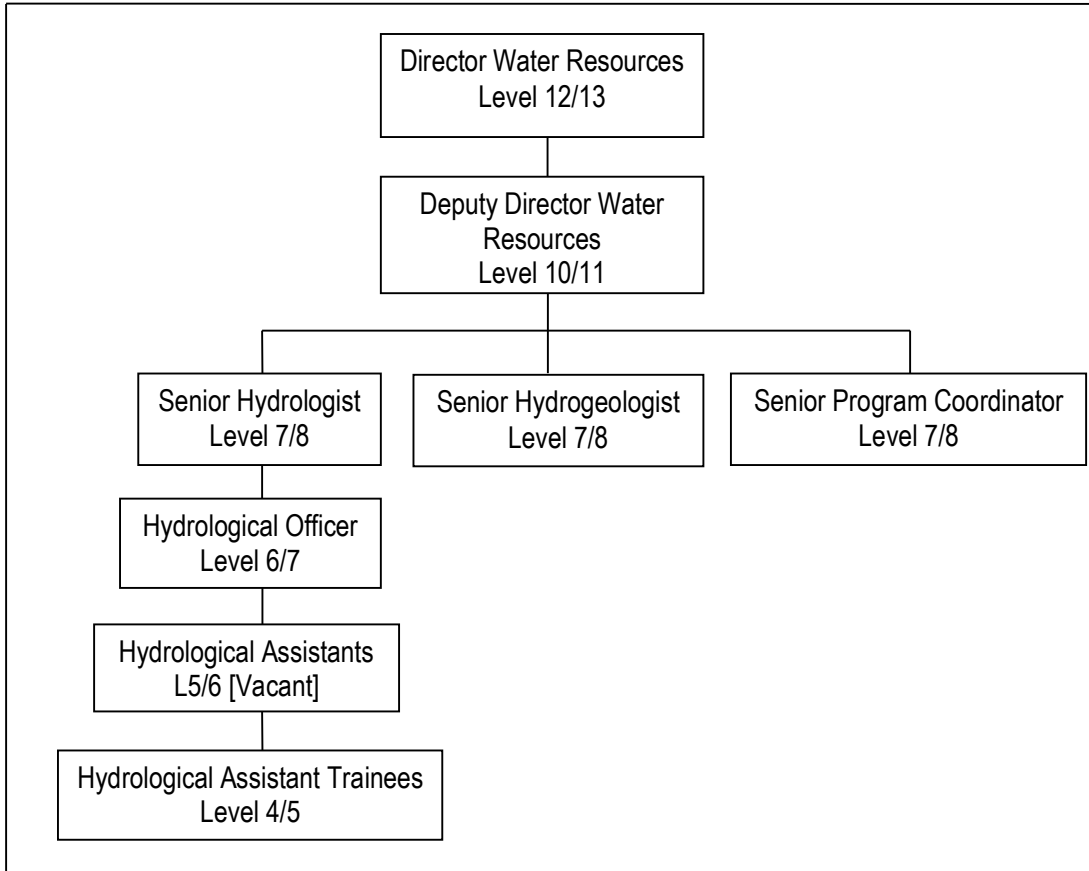


Figure 1.0 - Establishment chart for Water Resources Division for 2009

The summary of staffing for the division in 2009 is provided in Table 2.0 below. There were no new recruitments in 2009 even though there was one junior position vacant in the division. There were total of eight (8) positions with seven (7) filled and one (1) vacant in the division in 2009. The vacant position is very important for the division to assist and administer hydrological activities. Necessary recruitment data for the post was prepared and recruitment was expected in 2009 but not eventuated therefore the division will ensure recruitment for the position is done in 2010, preferably second or third quarter. Staffing annual leave movement is provided in Table 3.0.

Table 2.0 – Staffing for Water Resources Division for 2009

No of Post	Divisional Section	Establishment Post	Manpower Name	Grade Level
1	Directorate	Director	C. Bepapa	12/13
1		Deputy Director	I. Lekelalau	10/11
1	Hydrology	Senior Hydrologist	M. Maehaka	7/8
1		Hydrological Officer	A. Gilbert	6/7
1		Hydrological Assistant	Vacant	5/6
1		Hydrological Assistant Trainees	S. Bata Junior	4/5
1	Hydrogeology	Senior Hydrogeologist	J. Kaobata	7/8
1	Policy & Management	Senior Program Coordinator	R. Molea	7/8

Table 3.0 - Staffing annual leave for 2009

Posts	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Director												
Deputy Director												
Senior Hydrologist												
Senior Hydro-geologist												
Senior Program Coordinator												
Hydrological Officer												
Hydrological Assistant												
Hydrological Assistant Trainee												

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2009**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

There were improvements in the ministerial and divisional activities in 2009 compared to previous years partly due to improvement in manpower, adequate equipments and economic situation in the country.

The increased of budgetary allocations for the ministry allowed some implementation of divisional programs and projects to certain extents. The division's annual budget was adequate to implement the planned work programs for 2009 however there were constrains in securing necessary funds to implement planned activities according to the work plan. However, because of the improvement divisional targets were achieved compared to other previous years.

#### **2.0 ACTIVITIES**

The Water Resources Division has responsibilities in the assessment, administration, management and planning of water resources in Solomon Islands. Such responsibilities are addressed through existing legislations, government and departmental policies and departmental work plans such as:

- Administering the River Water Act (1969);
- Ensure our water sources are protected from all forms of pollution;
- Carry out a comprehensive assessment of surface water resources in the Solomon Islands;
- Carry out a comprehensive assessment of groundwater resources in the country;
- Carryout hydrological investigation country wide;
- Assist in the review of SIWA to improve service delivery;
- Finalize Water Resources Legislation for parliament enactment;
- Advocate other government institutions in water resources awareness;
- Groundwater Assessment and Pursue Kongulai Water Catchment a protected area;
- Implementing Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Solomon Islands;
- Work with regional bodies in relation to water and water-related projects.
- Identifying potential energy sources for development to meet the increasing industry energy needs; and

In line with the Governments national plans as set out in the Government of Coalition for National Unity and Rural Advancement (CNURA) Policy Statement and Policy Translation and Implementation Framework, Departmental Corporate Plan and Water Resource Division Work Plan for 2009 certain activities were undertaken within the provisions of budget allocation for 2009. These activities are summarised in Tables 4.0 and 5.0 below.

### 3.0 DIRECTORATE

Table 4.0 – Directorate Section Activities and Achievements for 2009

Activities	Action/Targets	Remarks
<b>General Administration and Management</b>	Organise, administer and manage the objectives of the division  Established policies , review of legislative documents, coordinate and planned divisional duties with other department and divisions	Deal with the day to day administration of the division.  On-going. General administration and management of the division
<b>Solomon Islands Water Governance Program</b>	Assist Policy Section in undertaking Consultation and Awareness throughout the country commenced 2008 on the Draft Water Resource Legislation	This program is jointly implemented with SIWA and Environment Health Rural Water Supply & Sanitation
<b>EU Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Planning Program</b>	Facilitates the program and Institutional arrangement partnership framework with other stakeholders for meetings.  Draft TOR for the National Intersectoral Water Coordination Committee (NIWCC)  Inception meeting and follow up meetings to review TOR of NIWCC	Funding for initial program activities is pending PS endorsement of letter of Agreement for disbursement of funds from SOPAC  Due to SIG cash flow problem, financial support requested from SOPAC to conduct meets
<b>GEF Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project</b>	Inception period tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet paper</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Scope and log frame review</li> <li>• Stakeholder analysis</li> <li>• Finalise MOA with AG Chambers for IWRM project</li> <li>• Recruitment of Project Officers</li> <li>• Finance and administration arrangement for the project</li> <li>• Final review of project for Inception meeting in Fiji</li> </ul>	Recruitment shortly after vacancies advertised in June/July  Project review committee TOR drafted  open project account
<b>National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA)</b>	Assist in the preparation of Pacific Islands Forms (PIF)for National Adaption Program of Action for Solomon Islands (NAPA)Climate change project  Consultation with World Bank, ADB and JICA for climate changes related projects for Solomon Islands	This project is facilitate by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology climate change division with all related stakeholders
<b>Honiara Water Supply Project</b>	Budget preparation for SIG undertakings  Finalise project with JICA Team and SIWA	The project will upgrade and replace existing water supply infrastructures. JICA project with SIWA (expected start date 2009) will address groundwater resources within Honiara City boundary for Honiara City water supply with projections for year 2010-2015.
<b>Selwyn College flooding</b>	Assistant to school for immediate rehabilitation measure through assessment and survey of school	The school made a request to the division for assistance, assessment and survey done by the division and SIWA.

Table 5.0 - Summary of major Activities and Achievements for 2009

January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
<b>Hydrology Section</b>			
<p>The major component of the Water Resources Division work plan is the National Hydrological Monitoring Network in the country. To date only four river flow monitoring stations are in operation: Sorave (Choiseul), Kubolota (Isabel), Rori (Malaita) and Rove (Honiara).</p> <p>Lungga Bridge station was down for reinstallation but was further delayed due to slow release of payments for the reinstallation.</p> <p>Rori station was visited from 1-7 March to remove the old logger and reinstalled a new logger. Gauging and general maintenance of the station was also undertaken.</p> <p>Sorave station was visited from 8 - 14 March and a new logger was installed, the logger is a capacitive water level type (5 metres). Housing was installed to protect battery and recorder components. Two sets of gauging were carried out and general maintenance of the station.</p>	<p>The Pacific HYCOS Project Installed four new rainfall sites at Tetera Police station, Rate Community High School, Henderson field and mount Austen and a water level recording site at Rove, Botanical garden.</p> <p>Lungga bridge water level station was vandalized after only 3 days of completion; this site is now abandoned and Betikama Adventist College site is proposed pending approval from the School Board.</p> <p>Lloyd (SOPAC) and Martin Doyle (NIWA) provided technical training for hydrological staff.</p> <p>The Ngalimbiu River is also proposed for re-installation after consultations meetings with landowners. However, cash demands halted the installations</p> <p>The Tina tributary upper Ngalimbiu is also an alternative site for a water level and rainfall station.</p>	<p>Inspection and downloading of data from the newly installed rainfall sites at Tetera, Rate School and Mt. Austine.</p> <p>Installation of a rain gauge at Tina on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and the Pumpro water level recorder also at Tina proposed hydro power site.</p> <p>Weekly gauging and downloading of data from Rove botanical garden water level site.</p> <p>The Betikama installations have to be deferred again waiting for final confirmation from School Board.</p>	<p>Up-dating of records especially data archiving, and proceeding on with ordering of stationeries for the following year.</p> <p>A trip to Rori hydrological station was conducted to carry out routine inspection and data downloading on the site. Processing and archiving of collected data.</p> <p>Kubolota trip was cancelled due to delay in special Imprest disbursement.</p> <p>Work on the Betikama Water level recording station started slowly due to staff taking early Christmas leave.</p>

January – March	April – June	July - September	October – December
<b>Hydrogeology Section</b>			
<p>Installation of water well with solar pump for Koevavuka community in Choiseul. The trip coincided with installation of Sorave hydrological station in Northwest Choiseul (8-14<sup>th</sup> March). Installation was completed with pumping of water after installing pump.</p> <p>Selwyn College water source assessment for the school. The trip occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009. The source was insufficient for required water supply purposes. Further assessments were done by WRD and SIWA on 25 &amp; 31/3/09.</p> <p>Staff from the division carried out a preliminary survey for a new borehole for Tenaru Rural Training Center on 20/3/09. Due to wet weather an ER survey was planned at a later date. However a location for possible drilling was identified and based on available information a depth of 30 metres was recommended.</p>	<p>Pump testing carried out on the Betikama Adventist College on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 by I. Lekelalu, J. Kaobata and S. Bata Jnr. The officers conduct pump test for at least two hours. Recovery test was done after water level stabilizes and pumping is stopped and water level is timed to return to its before-pumping level.</p> <p>Lloyd Smith and Martin Doyle visit the water resource section on the month of May-June, 2009. Concerning the groundwater monitoring in Honiara two sites have been chosen for the project. Namely Tetere and Tuvaruhu bore are chosen.</p> <p>J.Kaobata accompanies the Energy Division on their tour to the island of Rennel. This is to check the ground water wells and their quality. But, the finding indicates that the well is brackish. And the sustainability of the wells are slim due to the source is not sufficient to recharge itself quickly.</p>	<p>Mbetikama and Ngalimbiu water level installations</p> <p>Kubolota water level &amp; rainfall routine maintenance</p> <p>Monthly visits to Tetere, Rate, Mt. Austen and Rove rainfall &amp; water level sites</p> <p>Water supply assessment for Makira Province (Kirakira, Three Sisters and Santa Ana/Catalina</p> <p>Confirm borehole monitoring recorder with Pacific-HYCOS coordinator (SOPAC)</p>	<p>Assist the hydrological section in monitoring and downloading of data from rain gauge and gauging at various Honiara hydrological stations such a Rove.</p> <p>Monthly visits to Tetere, Rate, Mt. Austen and Rove rainfall &amp; water level sites</p> <p>Monitoring recorder and gauging from Pacific-HYCOS (SOPAC) new site Installations.</p> <p>Tina River gauging</p>

January – March	April – June	July - September	October – December
<b>Policy and Management Section</b>			
<p>Work on section’s 2009 work plan and prepare research information for students</p> <p>Work on draft TOR for the National Intersectoral Water Coordination Committee (NIWCC).</p> <p>Work on draft strategy paper for IWRM and prepare documents for first proposed IWCC meeting.</p> <p>Water resource first divisional meeting.</p> <p>Work on section’s 2008 annual report</p> <p>Water governance consultation awareness tour, Auki Malaita province. Prepare technical report on consultation and awareness.</p> <p>Work on consultation meeting TOR and proposal for IWRM for submission to SOPAC</p>	<p>A TOR paper was drafted for the establishment of a National Intersectoral Water Coordination Committee (NIWCC). The NIWCC once established would provide technical recommendation, prepares policy and legislation about water.</p> <p>Draft a proposal for consultation for SOPAC to seek funding support for the EU IWRM Planning Program. The consultation proposal was included as part of the letter of agreement that was signed by SOPAC and MMERE for the release of the funds.</p> <p>An information paper was prepared for the cabinet on the GEF IWRM project. The project will be co-ordinated by a Steering Committee made up of stakeholders to the project and implemented by the Project Management Unit (PMU).</p> <p>The NIWCC had its first meeting early June to inform participants about the EU IWRM project, review the committee’s term of references and to formally establish a committee that would ensure there is systematic framework established to address priority resources management issues.</p>	<p>A draft paper on status of water bill was prepared to inform the Permanent Secretary Special duties, Don Tolia about the proposed legislation. Now we are waiting the formal establishment of the NIWCC to do further review before the proposed bill is submitted to cabinet</p> <p>NIWCC second meeting was held on 19 August at SIWA board room. The meeting recommended wide consultation to all stakeholders and proposed that a cabinet paper be drafted for cabinet to make the conclusion for the establishment of NIWCC.</p> <p>A final TOR paper was drafted for the establishment of NIWCC with few changes regarding the composition. The change made followed a recommendation made during the second meeting of the NIWCC to reduce the NIWCC composition.</p> <p>Draft Cabinet Paper for IWRM National Planning Program in Solomon Islands. The program aims to improve water governance through the establishment of NIWCC.</p>	<p>Attended a one day workshop on Records Management at Archives, on the 16 October. This is a workshop on how to keep records in orderly manner.</p> <p>Metapona River site visit conducted by Mines Division to investigate the down stream blockage of the river mouth. Staff from Geology Division, Water Resource Division, Mines Division &amp; Gold Ridge Mining company investigate the blockage and conclude that the blockage needs machines to clear the blockage.</p> <p>Start the Installation of Betikama hydrological monitoring station.</p> <p>Work on GEF IWRM Project introductory brochure as a n awareness information.</p>



Table 6.0 – Summary of hydrological monitoring activities planned for 2009

Station	Province	Planned Task	Remarks
Lungga	Honiara	Re-installation	Vandalise, relocate to Betikama
Betikama	Honiara	New installation	Complete, working
Sorave	Choiseul	New logger & housing installation	Complete, working
Rori	Malaita	New logger installation & monitoring	Complete, working
Kubolota	Isabel	Quarterly monitoring & inspection	Working
Kovi	Guadalcanal	New installation of water logger	Pursuing

Table 7.0 – Summary of rain gauge installation activities planned for 2009

Station	Province	Task	Remarks
Tetere Police Station	Guadalcanal	New rain gauge installation	HYCOS Project funding
Rate School	Guadalcanal	New rain gauge installation	HYCOS Project funding
Henderson Field	Guadalcanal	New rain gauge installation	HYCOS Project funding
Mount Austin	Guadalcanal	New rain gauge installation	HYCOS Project funding
Rove	Honiara	New water level installation	HYCOS Project funding

Table 8.0 – Summary of requests for water assessment activities in 2009

Community	Province	Request/Task	Remarks
Koevavuka	Choiseul	to install water well with solar pump	NZAID funding, task complete
Selwyn College	Guadalcanal	Assess identify water source for water supply	Task complete, insufficient supply
Tenaru RTC	Guadalcanal	Survey for new borehole	Task complete , report compiled
Betikama College	Guadalcanal	Pump test and borehole installation	Complete, borehole working
Rennel	Rennel and Bellona	Assess groundwater well & their quality	Assist Energy Division, task complete
Ontong Java	Malaita	Assess water quality & presents of groundwater	NDMO undertaking, task complete
Makira	Makira Ulawa	Assess ground and surface water for development	Task complete

#### **4.0 KEY PRIORITY AREAS IN WATER SECTOR**

The Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification outlined its strategies under the CNURA Government Policy Translation and Implementation to achieve the key priority areas in the water sector:

1. Honiara City Water Supply Improvement Project – needs upgrading and replacement of existing water supply infrastructures for proper planning and development for future Honiara City expansion through development of additional water sources close to Honiara City. JICA project with SIWA (expected start date 2009) will address groundwater resources within Honiara City boundary for Honiara City water supply with projections for year 2010-2015.
2. Implementing Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management (IWRM) in Solomon Islands - Managing Honiara City Water Supply and Reducing Pollution through IWRM Approaches. IWRM Demonstration project in Solomon Islands will address water resources and wastewater management and pollution issues for Honiara water supply systems. A GEF funded demonstration project for 5 years, commenced 2008/09.
3. Implementing EU Funded Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) National Planning Program for Solomon Islands (2008-2011). Need to support Pacific Island Countries to improve the governance and management of their water resources through the development of national water partnerships, IWRM Plans, Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Strategies and other water governance and priority water management issues in each of the 14 PICs. The IWRM Planning Program is based on best practice and demonstration which will include legislation, policies, inter-sectoral coordination committees, watershed partnerships, awareness, consultation, advocacy, expertise exchange, best practice, etc. depending on the needs and situation of Solomon Islands.
4. On-going Water Governance Consultation Program involving Provincial and Landowners and other Stakeholders in the proposed Water Resources Legislation and Policy.
5. Honiara Water Sources Hydrological Investigation (Development Project for 2008-2009). Needs comprehensive assessment of available water resources through hydrological investigation to ensure we have effective planning, management and development of water supplies for Honiara City (implementation commenced June 2008).

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### 1.0 BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget allocation for the division for 2009 was adequate to implement the work plan of the division however other constraints hindered implementation of the division in 2009. One of the main reasons was difficulty and delayed in acquisition of necessary fund for implementation of work plan, especially the hydrological field works.

The delay in accessing funding mostly affected the implementation of planned activities on time; i.e. the implementation of quarterly work programs was difficult under such circumstances.

The budget allocation for the division for 2009 to implement its work plan is provided in Table 9.0 below.

Table 9.0 – Re-current Expenditure for Water Resources Division for 2009

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2009 Baseline</b>
295-0275-2010	Office Expenses	30,065
295-0275-2017	Printing	6,096
295-0275-2050	Fuel	24,030
295-0275-2070	Staff Travel and Transport (Local)	23,524
295-0275-3220	Materials and Equipment	23,524
295-0275-6064	Hydrographic Running Cost	29,670
295-0275-6171	Hydrogeological Running Cost	36,142
295-0275-6172	Water Governance Running Cost	114,206
295-0279-1010	Civil Services Salaries	424,855
295-0279-1011	Housing Allowance	26,118
295-0279-1014	Other Allowances	8,024
295-0279-1015	N.P.F. (7.5%)	29,120
OC	Payroll Water Resource Total	253,685
OC	Other Charges	287,256
0275	Water Resource Total	540,941
0279	Payroll	488,117

There was an improvement in the budget allocation for the Water Resource Management Division for 2009 compared to 2008.

## **2.0 DISBURSEMENTS**

The disbursement of funds allocated to the division was mainly divided into the following categories:

### **1. Hydrological and hydrogeological activities**

Hydrological and hydrogeological works covers surface water and groundwater assessments. This covers all field related activities the division undertaken during the year.

### **2. Water Governance**

This covers Provincial community awareness and consultations to promote water policy and legislation before the final drafting of the water resources policy and legislation.

### **3. Materials and equipment**

This covers materials and equipment purchased for the implementation of activities as part of the work plan of the division.

### **4. Travel and transportation**

Travelling and transportation covered expenses for officers on annual leave and officers on official tour to the Provinces.

### **5. Office expenses**

Office expenses covered mostly stationeries and other items required for the daily running of Water Resources Division office.

## **3.0 CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

Similar to previous years there were many problems the division encountered when to implement its work plans. Major ones include funding allocation to the division, vehicle, equipment and staffing. Over the years these problems have been addressed to certain extent however serious action need to be taken for the effective implementation of work plans of the division to achieve its targets.

- On-going cash flow delayed funding for trips schedule for according to the work plan timeframe.
- Logistics (vehicle) continue to be an issue to effectively carry out the activities of the division, especially during installation and data collection.
- Staff shortage due to retirement caused issues with touring to provinces during normal routine maintenance of hydro stations

- Too many small islands scattered over large sea area
- Cost of travel to collect, investigate and monitor rivers, streams and carry out maintenance is expensive
- Funding from the national government received often does not meet requirements
- Water resources has low priority in national government
- Land access problems
- Vandalisms
- Inadequate
- Inadequate policies in the water sector
- Lack of appropriate legislation
- Limited understanding of waste sector issues
- Land ownership systems

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Hydrological activities form the major component of the divisions work plan for 2009. The main objective of the division is to provide adequate and effective hydrological services. During past years the division has experienced severe problems in executing its work plans mainly because of insufficient financial support from the government, manpower shortage and equipment shortage in the division. However, the improved situation in the country has enabled the division to implement the hydrological activities in the country for 2009.

The recruitment of new staff into the division has dramatically improved the manpower level and also provides flexibility in undertaking field activities to carry our hydrological activities planned for the country. The On-going Water Governance Consultation Program will enable us to establish a legal framework in pursuing proper and effective Water Resources Legislation and Policy.

With improvement in budget allocation and manpower 2010 is expected to be a challenging year for the division in implementing the priority areas and tasks for the division work plan.