



Republic of Nauru

National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy

A Policy to provide reliable, safe, affordable, secure and sustainable water supplies to meet socio-economic development needs and appropriate sanitation systems for healthy communities and environments

**Ebōk eiy itsimor, Ebōk eiy gaganado, Rañga kō wam ebōk
bwain tsimorum ñage me iyamwan**

**Water is life, Water is precious, Care for water for your life
for today and for the future**

**Draft
September 2011**

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community-based Organisation
CPSC	CIE Project Steering Committee
CIE	Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EC	The European Community
EU	The European Union
GoRoN	Government of the Republic of Nauru
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NCWEW	National Committee on Water Energy and Waste
NDC	Nauru Development Committee
NISIP	National Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan
NNSDS	Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 (revised 2009)
NWSHIP	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Implementation Plan
NWSHP	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy
NRC	Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation
NUA	Nauru Utilities Authority
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
PAD	Policy and Aid Division (Department of Finance)
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PRAPSWM	Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management
RO	Reverse osmosis (desalination)
RoN	Republic of Nauru
RONPHOS	Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corporation
SOI	Southern Oscillation Index
SOPAC	Applied Geoscience Division of the SPC
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
ToR	Terms of Reference
WTC	Water Technical Committee

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Republic of Nauru

National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy

Preamble

1. Title of Policy

The title of this policy is the **National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy** (NWSHP).

2. Purpose of Policy

Freshwater is essential for life and for the social, cultural and economic well-being of all peoples. In Nauru, freshwater is a vital and scarce resource supporting the island's communities and their economic growth. There are widespread community concerns about the availability and quality of freshwater, especially during Nauru's frequent ENSO-related droughts and due to discharge from household sanitation systems to shallow groundwater. Because of these the Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 identified the development of a national water resources policy as a priority goal.

The purpose of this policy is to declare the Government's commitment to provide reliable, safe, affordable, secure and sustainable water supply and to facilitate appropriate sanitation systems to meet health and socio-economic development needs of all Nauruans.

This policy provides a framework for Government leadership and coordinated and integrated action in the supply of safe, adequate and technically and environmentally sustainable water services and the promotion of appropriate sanitation services and hygiene practices to the people of the Republic of Nauru. It also provides direction for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and efficient management of Nauru's water resources. It is directed at improving the welfare, health and livelihood of Nauruans and represents the vision of the Government of the Republic of Nauru (GoRoN) for the water and sanitation sector.

3. Vision for this Policy

The 2005-2025 Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy (NNSDS revised in 2009) provides three goals for the water and sanitation, waste and sewerage and environment sectors. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment's (CIE) Project Steering Committee (CPSC) combined these NNSDS goals to produce vision for this policy:

“Reliable, safe, affordable, secure and sustainable water supplies to meet socio-economic development needs and appropriate sanitation systems for healthy communities and environments.”

4. Policy Theme

Water is everyone's business. A short, easy-to-remember Policy Theme helps attract the community's attention and particularly that of children. The CPSC developed the theme for this policy:

Ebōk eiy itsimor

Water is life

Ebōk eiy gaganado

Water is precious

**Raŋga kō wam ebōk bwain tsimorum
ñage me iyamwan**

**Care for water for your life for today
and for the future**

5. Justification for this Policy

Nauru has no potable surface water resources, very limited fresh groundwater resources, no household piped freshwater and is highly vulnerable to frequent ENSO-related droughts when most rainwater tanks fail within a month of no rain. The island is then forced to rely heavily on expensive desalinated water which uses 20 to 30% of the total annual power consumption of Nauru. Unaccounted for water from the desalination plant is as high as 90% and the supply of water is a major expense to GoRoN.

Schools frequently are forced to close because they have no water for drinking and toilet flushing. Theft of water from schools is a major issue. At the hospital, water supply, water storages and distribution pipes are inadequate and deteriorating and sewerage-polluted storm water floods the hospital site and buildings during heavy rains. There is widespread general public concern over the availability and quality of water supply.

The rainwater harvesting and collection systems on both household and public buildings are sub-optimal. The island's many cesspits and septic tank sanitation systems seriously degrade the quality of groundwater in the coastal plain which is used by many households. During heavy rains, polluted groundwater sometimes rises to the surface. Hospitalised diarrhoea and rates of other water-related illnesses in Nauru are amongst the highest in the region.

Nauru has no overarching institutional, legislative, regulatory or policy frameworks for integrated management of water and sanitation and no contingency plans for water and sanitation emergencies. As a consequence the Republic has no specific objectives or targets for managing its water resources, blurred lines of responsibility for water resources planning and decisions and there is little coordination and no centralised data base. Public water sources have no legal protection and conservation is a low priority.

Despite our shared concerns about water, Nauruans are not effectively engaged in the protection or conservation of their water resources. There is no clear mechanism for engaging them in planning, conservation, protection and management.

The situation in Nauru in the past has been described as a water supply crisis. Despite improvements since then, the impacts of climate change and the increase in demand for potable water which follows development, increase in living standards, rehabilitation of mined-out areas and growth in agriculture will increase the challenges. Scarcity of good quality water during frequent droughts is a barrier to economic development.

In recognition of the seriousness of these issues, the first strategy in the Water and Sanitation component of the comprehensive Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy (NNSDS) 2005-2025 (revised October 2009) is:

Develop a national water resource management policy to guide the sustainable use and management of water resources in Nauru

The review of the NNSDS 2005-2025 in October 2009 commented that:

“Lack of Coordination – Blurred and overlapping responsibilities have resulted in tasks falling between the cracks and not being coordinated across sectors”

This policy is a direct response to the NNSDS 2005-2025 and its 2009 review.

The NWSHP is also a response by the Republic of Nauru to its international obligations under the UN General Assembly's Declaration in 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals particularly concerning water “to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of the world's population who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water,” and “to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources”, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 target of “halving the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation by 2015”. It also fulfils regional commitments made under *The Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management* which was endorsed by all Pacific Island Nations Heads of State during the Pacific Island Leaders meeting in Auckland in 2003, and presented at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

6. Opportunities for Successful Implementation of this Policy

Nauruans are strong-willed, resilient and fiercely independent and have proven abilities to rise to and overcome challenges. For the past 3,000 years we have recognised the vital and central importance of water. There is widespread community concern about availability and quality of water and widespread recognition about our vulnerability to climate change and our need to adapt to it. Our population is well educated and all live on one island where there is strong district community identity.

The media in Nauru are very supportive of water reform and there are already established donor-funded projects on integrated water resources management, IWRM, Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change, PACC and Pacific Hydrological Cycle Monitoring System (HYCOS). These have initiated practical projects at the Ministry, National, community and household level. The Water Unit within CIE together with out lead water agencies and Ministries has built up expertise in running water and sanitation projects.

Nauru has a good record in attracting aid donor and loan projects. This policy will be of benefit in attracting additional external funds. CIE has established a whole-of-government-agency-community stakeholder steering committee to oversee water and sanitation projects and provide an integrated approach to national water management. This is assisted by the whole-of-government Water Technical Committee. The CPSC has submitted this policy.

The NNSDS 2005-2025 (NNNSDS) and the 2011 National Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan (NISIP) lays a solid foundation for improvement in the water and sanitation sector. Finally, Nauru's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management shows that the Government takes seriously its international obligations.

Together, these indicate a strong potential for the successful implementation of this policy.

7. Support for this Policy

This draft policy was developed using a whole-of-government-community consultation process through the CIE Project Steering Committee (CPSC) with assistance from the CIE Water Technical Committee. The Committee is made up of representatives from the following Departments, agencies and organisations:

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Environment Division

Agriculture Division

Tourism Division

Public Health, Department of Health

Nauru Utilities Authority

Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation

Department of Education

Department of Finance and Sustainable Development

Policy and Aid Division, Department of Finance

Bureau of Statistics, Department of Finance

Department of Home Affairs

Business and Community-Based Organisations from representative districts

The policy development process has also involved individual consultations with key stakeholders and has used workshops to identify the issues to be addressed, the policy goals, objectives and priorities. The process was facilitated by Professor Ian White of the Australian National University, supported Louis Bouchet, consultant for Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC), and colleagues from CIE and the CPSC and was supported by SOPAC of the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) with funding from the European Union (EU) through the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project and aided by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) both hosted by Nauru.

This draft policy has been endorsed by all key stakeholders in water, sanitation and hygiene. It has been submitted by CPSC to the National Development Committee for endorsement and transmission to Cabinet.

8. Consistency of this Policy with Previous Government Initiatives

In developing this policy a wide range of studies, reports, previous Government initiatives, policy statements, legislation and regional and international agreements which Nauru has endorsed have been examined. These include the draft Public Health Bill, the draft Education Bill 2011, the draft Environment Management Act 2006, the draft Nauru Utilities Policy, the draft Nauru Utilities Bill, the NNSDS 2005-2025 (revised October 2009), the 2009 Review of the NNSDS, the 2011 NISIP, the RoN Framework for Climate Change Adaptation, the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management, endorsed in Auckland in 2003, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto protocol, the Copenhagen Accord, the Stockholm Convention for Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UN General Assembly's Declaration in 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

The NNSDS 2005-2025 (revised 2009) sets down some clear goals for the water and sanitation, waste and sewerage sectors and for the environment which are of direct relevance to this policy.

- 1. Provide a reliable, safe, affordable, secure and sustainable water supply to meet socio-economic development needs.**
- 2. Effective management of waste and pollution that minimizes negative impacts on public health and environment.**
- 3. Sustainable use and management of the environment and natural resources for present and future generations**

The 2011 NISIP used these goals in deciding on infrastructure investment priorities in the water sector. Both strategies have been used as guidance for developing the policy goals.

9. Process used in Policy Development

The first step in the development of this policy was to review previous Government policies, statements, and draft documents and key reports dealing with water and sanitation. The water and sanitation, sewerage and wastes and environment sectors of the NNSDS were used as the basis for development and a five stage adaptive planning process was used in workshops with the CPSC and the WTC to identify the key issues, define the policy goals and objectives, refine the policy and develop its implementation plan.

I. Formulation of the Issues – identify the problems and opportunities – prioritise and categorise these and incorporate into Policy to be used as the basis for policy goals and objectives.

II. Ends Planning – identify policy goals, objectives and management ideals and the gaps between planned end of the policy process and the current priority issues-incorporate into Policy.

III. Means Planning – identify appropriate, realistic mechanisms and activities to close the gaps and address the issues – Incorporate into Implementation Plan.

IV. Resource Planning – determine resources required to allow chosen mechanisms to be implemented – Incorporate into Implementation Plan.

V. Implementation and Control - determine responsibilities for activities and schedules for policy implementation and for monitoring and evaluation of policy outcomes – Incorporate into Implementation Plan

10. Policy Areas Addressed

Nauruans use water from a variety of sources: rainwater; desalinated reverse osmosis (RO) water; groundwater; imported bottled water; and seawater for nonpotable uses. The

government has direct control over only RO and imported bottled water. Many past reports and studies have identified a range of water resource issues which require government policy intervention. These issues have been reviewed and refined by the CPSC and WTC. They lie in the general areas of:

I Climate variability and water resource vulnerability – The variability of Nauru’s rainfall, which is coupled to ENSO events, is a major challenge for water management in Nauru with both quality and availability being affected. Nauru oscillates between having too much water during heavy rainfalls to having significant deficits during droughts. The impact of climate change may increase these challenges.

II Water quality and supply – There are no water quality guidelines or standards in Nauru. The quality of Nauru’s scarce fresh groundwater is compromised by household sanitation systems, seawater intrusion, leaking petroleum products and wastes. In dry times, Nauru is heavily reliant on expensive desalinated RO water whose production and distribution in droughts is inadequate to meet reasonable demand. There is a lack of maintenance of water supply, storage and distribution infrastructure. Most rainwater harvesting and storage systems are sub-optimal and poorly maintained. The hospital, dialysis clinic and schools, high priority areas, frequently run short of good quality, potable water.

III Demand – There is no current, accurate data on water demand or use by different sectors or use from different water sources in Nauru. There is an imperfect, ineffective system for controlling demand of expensive RO water. Unaccounted for water and water losses of RO water are unacceptable high. There is no control of groundwater use so that individual overuse can salinise the groundwater of a whole neighbourhood. There is no system for ensuring equitable and fair use of water from public water storage tanks.

IV Governance – There is no water legislation or national policy for water, sanitation and hygiene sectors and limited strategic planning. There are no drought contingency plans and no clear statement of roles and responsibilities in the sector. Coordination between government departments and agencies is limited and there is no systematic reporting to government. Water sources have no legal protection and the RO water system is financially unsustainable.

V Capacity - The number of trained people to manage water resources and sanitation in Nauru is very limited. The human and financial resources available for water management are limited. There is no training program for increasing capacity in the sector of government staff, industry or at the household level. There is no national water resource data base and no coordinated system for monitoring and reporting on the Nation’s water resources across the Departments and agencies with responsibilities in the sector.

VI Community awareness and participation – There is limited community awareness about water resource vulnerability, protection and conservation and limited community participation in the planning, protection and conservation of water resources and in the installation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting and improved sanitation systems. There are no incentives for encouraging improvement of household rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems and limited information on maintaining and repairing them.

11. Specific Issues to be Addressed

The specific sector issues identified by the CPSC, assisted by the WTC, and detailed in Nauru Water Sanitation and Climate Outlook that require Government intervention are:

I Climate variability and water resource vulnerability

1. Frequent ENSO-related major droughts leading to scarce freshwater availability
2. Climate change may add to the complexity of water management
3. Drought and over-use of groundwater cause seawater intrusion
4. Local flooding and groundwater pollution increases in heavy rains

II Water quality and supply

5. No water quality standards
6. High rate of water-borne diseases and health impacts from poor quality water
7. Brackish and limited quantity of groundwater resources
8. Groundwater contaminated by sewage, oil, waste pits and other contaminants
9. Sanitation systems that pollute groundwater, seawater and use precious fresh water
10. Reliance on energy intensive desalinated water (up to 1/3 of Nauru power production)
11. Lack of storage, maintenance of infrastructure and delivery capacity for RO water
12. RO production capacity of desalinated water is insufficient in major droughts
13. Unaccounted for water and water loss up to 90% of RO production
14. Effective strategy needed for water delivery to priority users such as schools, the hospital and dialysis unit
15. Public and household rainwater harvesting and storage is insufficient, and is poorly maintained and inefficient

III Demand

16. No current data on water demand and use from different sources and by different sectors
17. Imperfect, very limited, inequitable system for managing water demand
18. No system for controlling equitable water use from community water storages
19. No control of groundwater use

IV Governance

20. No water legislation or national policy for water, sanitation and hygiene sectors
21. Limited strategic planning and objectives for water and sanitation management
22. No drought contingency plans or strategies
23. No clear roles and responsibilities for water management
24. Limited coordination between departments and agencies
25. No legal protection of water sources
26. Inadequate cost recovery mechanisms for RO water, RO system is financially unsustainable

V Capacity

27. Very limited number of local, trained people for water management and production
29. Very limited resources for planning, maintenance and refurbishment of infrastructure
30. Very limited resources for monitoring, assessment and evaluation
31. No national water resource data base, limited assessment of groundwater
32. No coordinated water resource monitoring, analysis and reporting program

VI Community awareness and engagement

33. Limited awareness about water resource vulnerability, protection and conservation
34. Limited community participation in the planning, protection and conservation of water resources and in promoting improved sanitation systems.
35. Poor maintenance of household water and sanitation infrastructure
36. No incentives for encouraging the improvement of household rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems

The policy goals and objectivities that follow are designed to address these issues. The specific activities required are detailed in the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Implementation Plan.

12. Submitting Agency

This policy is submitted to Cabinet by the **National Development Committee** and endorsed by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Environment. The policy was developed through the whole-of-government and community CIE Project Steering Committee assisted by the Water Technical Committee.

13. Implementation Agencies

The **Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment** is the lead agency responsible for implementation of this policy. Other key agencies participating in implementation are the **Department of Health, the Nauru Utilities Authority, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, Department of Education, Department of Finance and Sustainable Development, and the Ministry of Home Affairs**. Monitoring of implementation of this policy and review of the outcomes will be carried out by the CPSC who will report to NDC

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Republic of Nauru

National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy

Statement of Policy

14. Statement of Policy

14.1 Policy Vision

“Reliable, safe, affordable, secure and sustainable water supplies to meet socio-economic development needs and appropriate sanitation systems for healthy communities and environments.”

14.2 Policy Goals

I Climate variability and water resource vulnerability

1. Adaptation to climate variability and change incorporated in all aspects of water and sanitation management

Nauru is highly vulnerable to frequent ENSO-related droughts when most rainwater tanks fail within a month of no rain. During heavy rains, polluted groundwater sometimes rises to the surface. This goal is to ensure that Nauru is adequately prepared for droughts and heavy rains.

II Water quality and supply

2. Reliable, safe, affordable, secure, efficient and sustainable water supply systems established and appropriate sanitation needs met and safe hygiene encouraged.

Nauru relies heavily on expensive, desalinated RO water, especially during droughts which uses 20 to 30% of the total annual power consumption of Nauru. The rainwater harvesting and collection systems on both household and public buildings are sub-optimal. The island's many cesspits and septic tank sanitation systems seriously degrade the quality of groundwater in the coastal plain, which is used by many households. There is a lack of maintenance and investment in infrastructure. This goal is designed to address these and related issues

III Demand

3. Equitable and fair systems created for controlling demand, conserving water and minimising waste and losses.

Current demand for freshwater is unknown and there is a very limited system for controlling demand. Accounted for water and water losses from the RO desalinated water are unacceptable high. There is no fair system for distributing

IV Governance

4. Clear, consistent and transparent system of water and sanitation policy, plans and laws established that identify organisations, roles, responsibilities for managing, conserving and protecting water resources.

Nauru has no overarching institutional, legislative, regulatory or policy frameworks for integrated management of water and sanitation and no contingency plans for water and sanitation emergencies. Public water sources have no legal protection and conservation is a low priority. This goal is aimed at addressing these issues.

V Capacity

5. Appropriate resources, capacity, skills training, information and organisations available for managing water and sanitation systems sustainably.

The number of trained people to manage water resources and sanitation is very limited. The resources available for water management are also limited and there is no national water resource data base and no coordinated system for monitoring and reporting on the Nation's water resources. This goal addresses these issues.

VI Community awareness and engagement

6. Community aware of the issues and actively engaged in planning, protection and conservation of water and improvements to and maintenance of household water and sanitation facilities.

Community awareness about water resource vulnerability, protection and conservation needs to be improved. There is limited community participation in the planning, protection and conservation of water resources and in improved sanitation systems. There are no incentives for encouraging improvement of household rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems. This goal addresses these issues

14.3 Policy Objectives

Associated with each set of policy goals are a set of policy objectives. These objectives are matched to the key issues identified in the adaptive policy planning process.

Policy Goal	Policy Objectives
1. Climate variability incorporated in all aspects of water and sanitation management	1.1 Drought contingency plans developed and operational. 1.2 Heavy rainfall contingency plans developed and operational. 1.3 Early warning system for droughts created 1.4 Climate change adaptation plans developed
2. Reliable, safe, affordable, secure, efficient and sustainable water supply established and appropriate sanitation needs met and safe hygiene encouraged	2.1 Guidelines for water quality standards established for Nauru 2.2 Sanitation systems introduced which minimize groundwater pollution, health and environmental impacts 2.3 Sources of groundwater pollution are controlled or removed. 2.4 Building guidelines for rainwater harvesting and storage and maintenance introduced 2.5 Production of desalinated water increased 2.6 Unaccounted for water and water losses from RO system reduced to acceptable levels 2.7 Storage capacity for RO water and rainwater increased. 2.9 Delivery capacity of RO water improved. 2.9 Infrastructure maintenance, investment and replacement program established. 2.10 Alternate, low energy-consumption sources of water developed 2.11 Nonpotable water used for toilet-flushing 2.12 Law passed to protect water sources from misuse and the environment from discharges.

<p>3. Equitable system for controlling demand, conserving water and minimising waste and losses created</p>	<p>3.1 System created to determine and update data on water use by different sectors from all sources. 3.2 Equitable and fair system created to control excessive demand for RO water. 3.3 Unaccounted for water and water losses from the RO system, storage tanks and distribution system minimised. 3.4 Sustainable yield of groundwater determined. 3.5 System in place to limit groundwater extraction to no more than the sustainable yield 3.6 System established to manage fair water distribution from community water tanks 3.7 Public engagement strategy for conserving water and minimising waste established</p>
<p>4. Clear, consistent and transparent system of water and sanitation policy, plans and laws established identifying organisations, roles, responsibilities for managing, conserving and protecting water resources</p>	<p>4.1 National water resource legislation established 4.2 National water policy endorsed by Parliament 4.3 National 10 year integrated water plan created 4.4 Contingency plans for climate, water and hygiene emergencies developed 4.5 Regulations for the supply of safe water established 4.6 System for recovering the cost of RO water production developed. 4.7 Whole-of-Government – Community Nauru peak sector National Committee under the National Development Committee and Water Unit within lead Ministry established</p>
<p>5. Appropriate resources, capacity, skills training, information and organisations available for managing water and sanitation systems sustainably</p>	<p>5.1 Adequately resourced Water Unit created within the lead Ministry as the water regulator and coordinator for monitoring 5.2 Capacities required specified 5.3 Appropriate training programs identified 5.4 Coordinated, water resources monitoring system established and groundwater assessed 5.5 Centralised, accessible national water resources, sanitation and hygiene data bases established</p>
<p>6. Community aware of the issues and actively engaged in planning, protection and conservation of water and improvements to household water and sanitation facilities.</p>	<p>6.1 Water, sanitation and hygiene programs incorporated into school curricula at all levels 6.2 Community and businesses represented on peak National Water and Sanitation Committee 6.3 Local district water, hygiene and sanitation committees established 6.4 Incentive programs created for improving and maintaining rainwater harvesting and storage. 6.5 Incentive programs for moving to sanitation systems that minimise groundwater pollution and use of potable water for flushing 6.6 Communication program created to increase capacity, raise awareness and encourage participation in water conservation and protection.</p>

15. Organisational Implications of this Policy

In order to implement, manage and monitor this policy:

A water unit within the lead Ministry should be established to focus national initiatives in water, sanitation and hygiene and to lead implementation of this policy. It will coordinate monitoring, planning and management of Nauru's water resources, centralise data storage, analysis and reporting and develop incentive schemes for improved rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems.

A peak whole-of-government and community national water, sanitation and hygiene committee, hosted by CIE, should be created under the NDC, using CPSC as a basis, to oversee the implementation process and to report to Cabinet through the NDC on progress.

16. Resource and Financial Implications of this Policy

Resources in Nauru are restricted. Given the vital importance of water, sanitation and hygiene, however, resources must be specifically allocated to the sector. To implement, manage and monitor this policy, two water and sanitation specialists will be required to be located within the water unit of CIE. One position is needed to concentrate on water resource monitoring and reporting and sanitation, the other to focus on water supply services, climate variability and change and community engagement. The NISID and the accompanying NWSHIP identify a program of infrastructure requirements worth approximately **A\$15M**. There is good potential for donor funding of many of these projects.

17. Legislative Implications of this Policy

There is a need to review all legislation, regulations and building codes pertaining to water and sanitation, to the protection of stored RO water, community rainwater storages and groundwater supply sources and to the statutory basis for agencies with responsibilities in the sector. Rationalisation, improvements and new water and sanitation legislation may be required. A review of existing regulations and incentives for compliance with this policy and their operation is also necessary.

18. Policy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementation of the NWSHP will take effect from the time that it is approved by Cabinet.

The accompanying National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Implementation Plan uses the policy goals and objectives of this policy to develop a 15 year implementation plan detailing activities, indicators and outputs and assigning responsibilities for implementation. Implementation will be overseen and coordinated by a Water Unit of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment in collaboration with other lead agencies .

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of performance against policy goals and objectives will be carried out by the whole-of-government-community peak National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee. The Committee will report to Cabinet through the NDC will report to Cabinet on the state of the nation's water resources and sanitation systems and on progress in policy implementation.

19. Responsibility for Implementing this Policy

The following GoRoN departments and agencies have responsibilities in implementing this policy which are detailed in the implementation plan:

- Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (designated lead agency)
- Department of Health
- Nauru Utilities Authority
- Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation
- Department of Education
- Department of Finance and Sustainable Development
- Department of Home Affairs
- Disaster Risk Management Unit

In addition to these, Business and Community-Based Organisations will be partnered in the implementation process to ensure the adoption of policy at the community level. The whole-of-government and community CPSC, or its successor and the WTC will play vital roles in policy implementation through overseeing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on policy implementation

20. Review of Policy and Implementation Plan

Progress on the NWSHP and its accompanying Implementation Plan will be reported annually by the peak National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee to Cabinet through the NDC. Both will be formally reviewed 5 years after being endorsed. Where necessary, the Policy will be revised to ensure relevance and maximise impact.

21. Recommendation

That Cabinet approves this policy.

22. Responsible Minister

Signed

Hon Dominic Tabuna MP
Minister
Commerce, Industry and Environment

23. Submission Date

XX September 2011