



23 March 2017

Mr Matt Hilton
Committee of Management Member
Aid/Watch
PO Box M14
MISSENDEN ROAD NSW 2015

Dear Mr Hilton

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2017 regarding support for Papua New Guinea's preparations to host APEC in 2018. I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No Australian Government funding has been provided for programs or activities related to the Paga Hill site, including the ring road.

Australia's support for Papua New Guinea hosting APEC is reflective of the importance that the Australian Government places on APEC as an institution, its role in strengthening sustainable economic growth in the region, and the rules-based international norms that it reinforces.

The Australian Government will extend the deployment of 53 Australian Federal Police advisers to provide capacity building activities in support of Papua New Guinea's hosting of APEC. \$48.2 million has been allocated for this program, of which approximately \$31.7 million is ODA-eligible. AFP also supports PNG's community policing, including family and sexual violence, investigations, custody management, police professionalism and accounting improvements.

A broad range of other capacity building programs, estimated at \$25 million, for Papua New Guinea's Treasury, Transport, Immigration, Customs and Defence agencies are primarily designed to improve Papua New Guinea's long term stability and development, and will deliver capability improvements that will also help PNG's policy and security preparations for APEC. This includes a combination of ODA and non-ODA funding.

The Australian Defence Force will augment Papua New Guinea's high-end defence capabilities in the immediate lead up to and during APEC leaders' week.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Diane Barclay
Director
Papua New Guinea Economic and Private Sector Section