

## Media Release

29 June 2011

### ESSO CONTINUES SUPPORT TO LNG PLANT SITE VILLAGES

Esso Highlands Limited (EHL), the operator of the PNG LNG Project, today announced that it is supporting a number of community projects in villages around the LNG Plant site, 20 kilometres north-west of Port Moresby.

The various community projects will support the Lea Lea, Papa and Boera villages and EHL is currently in discussion with the Porebada community to finalise a suitable project. The projects being funded include:

- Replacement of the foot bridge at Lea Lea. The bridge links the two parts of the village, and allows villagers to easily and safely cross the wide mouth of the river instead of paddling across. EHL will provide the materials for the bridge, while the Lea Lea community will provide the labour.
- The provision of housing for three health workers at Papa, a project to support the Salvation Army which runs the Papa Clinic and all of the LNG Plant site villages which use the Clinic. The Papa Clinic serves as a referral centre for all health centres in the area, and the housing will support a recent PNG Government initiative to upgrade and expand the clinic.
- Refurbishment of the Boera Clinic to better enable it to deliver health services to the Boera community. This will also include the construction of a new house for the health worker who works at the clinic, and who currently lives in the clinic.

Yow-Yeen Lee, EHL Senior Project Manager, said that the Project is providing a range of support to communities in the vicinity of its facilities and pipelines in recognition of the Project's presence in the communities.

"In addition to employment and business opportunities associated with the Project construction, we are supporting local communities through activities with a focus on education, health and capacity building. The projects we have announced today will benefit the local communities and positively influence their day-to-day business," he said.

"We are proud to cooperate with communities throughout the Project area. Through our involvement we aspire to help communities improve their livelihoods."

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**Photos are available**

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# FACT SHEET

## How the PNG LNG Project is supporting the LNG Plant site communities

The LNG Plant site is located 20 kilometres north-west of Port Moresby. Esso Highlands Limited (EHL), the operator of the PNG LNG Project, has already supported the communities around the Plant site, including Papa, Porebada, Lea Lea and Boera, through a variety of projects.

### Education

Examples of support to education included last year helping AusAID distribute over 2,000 school books to all 13 primary schools in Hiri District and funding achievement awards at the six schools in Porebada, Papa, Lea Lea and Boera. More recently, EHL distributed 2,320 school packs to children in Boera, Porebada, Papa and Lea Lea. All schools in those villages also received teachers' packs and sports packs for the 2011 school year. EHL had funded a small project to concrete the floor of two classrooms at Boera Elementary School, and recently provided materials to repair a classroom at Lea Lea Elementary. EHL is also reviewing School Learning Improvement Plans (SLIPs) from schools in the four villages, and is working with the school Board of Management and District and Provincial Governments to identify strategic areas for additional EHL support.

### Health

In terms of health, EHL last year helped Rotary Against Malaria to distribute over 20,000 treated anti-malaria bed nets to Papa, Lea Lea, Bogi, Roku and Boera villages. EHL recently decided to fund first aid and safety training for teachers and students from a number of schools near the LNG Plant site, as well as providing materials to help refurbish Hiri District Clinic. EHL funded the establishment of a cholera care centre at the Salvation Army's Papa/Lea Lea clinic and also provided a range of medical equipment to that clinic. In partnership with Population Services International and Divine Word University, EHL has awarded 24 health education scholarships to students from the Southern Highlands, Gulf and Central provinces. Along with the Asian Development Bank and Global Fund, EHL has supported Population Services International and Marie Stopes Papua New Guinea to educate people from the LNG Plant site villages about family planning and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

### Capacity Building

In terms of building the capacity of villagers, EHL has developed a cashew nut out-grower program in partnership with Cashew International Limited. Around 4,500 Cashew trees have been delivered to community members since April this year, with each interested villager receiving 10 cashew trees. EHL is currently planning training for women's life and income-generation skills courses in Papa, Lea Lea, Porebada and Boera. As well as the work on Lea Lea Bridge, EHL is developing small infrastructure project proposals for other villagers.

