

Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)

PRIF WEEK

The Challenges and Opportunities of Local Contractors

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SICCI Chairman



Brief Background – SICCI Organisation

- Peak body representing the private sector in Solomon Islands
- SICCI has 200 plus members
- Advocate on issues affecting businesses to create an environment which they can thrive in.
- Has an MoU with SIG signed in 2017 and re-signed in 2020.



Vision & Mission

- Vision: A vibrant private sector that leads to better lives
- Mission: Champions policies that influence policy change and providing value adding services to our members



SICCI Solomon Islands Chamber
of Commerce & Industry

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& be part of
our network of
businesses.*

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"A vibrant private sector, leading to better lives for our people"

The peak representative body of the
Solomon Islands Private Sector

Visit our office located at the Hyundai
Mall, First Floor, Sull 223 to collect an
application form.

For Membership enquiries contact
Naomi Mara on phone 39542 or email
services@solomonchamber.com.sb



Strategic Approach

Advocacy – Policy dialogue with government on behalf of members

Value Adding Services –

- Facilitating trainings for SMEs,
- networking events for members,
- dissemination of information and;
- engaging with key stakeholders



Post COVID 19 Focus

- Private Sector Led growth
- significant path is to maximise benefits to local economy through prioritizing local content within the huge infrastructure projects rolling out in the Solomon Islands;
- SICCI Infrastructure Symposium – 2 days (21 and 22 October 2021)



Background: Local Content Issues Paper

- SICCI has developed a Local Content Issues Paper which flags the issues raised by business in relation to the current policy settings and need for change to support greater local involvement in infrastructure to seize the opportunities that will come with the Solomon Islands infrastructure pipeline.



- **Global Economic Landscape:** External shocks historically prompt stronger consideration of localisation policies (GFC and Covid-19).
- **Local Content:** Needing to increase local content in infrastructure development is a longstanding issues in development – 20 years ago.



Benefits of increased local content



Business Insights

SICCI's local content policy has been developed, the following are the results:

- **Local content not explicitly considered in the design phase.**
- **Small and medium-sized building and construction businesses:**
- **Key issues identified by larger building and construction businesses:**
- **Skill barriers:**
- **Lack of local procurement of building supplies**
- **Greater opportunities for further local procurement of associated goods and services.**
- **Other policies constrain the competitiveness of local businesses**



Key Findings

- **1) Solomon Islands policy and regulatory settings currently do not explicitly consider the objective of enhancing local content in infrastructure development.**
- **2) Now is a perfect time to be considering how Solomon Islands can maximise benefits from the large pipeline of infrastructure development planned in Solomon Islands.**
- **3) Many broader policy setting constrain competitiveness: of the local private sector and reform should be prioritised.**



Key Findings

- **4) Procurement: Further work to assess appropriate procurement mechanisms to enhance local content should be explored:**
- **5) Capacity development initiatives as a means to support local content should be supported, informed by analysis of the greatest return initiatives**
- **6) National education and training policies to be examined against future skills demand to enhance local content.**
- **7) Transparency to support a level playing field and support confidence in the procurement system.**



Final thoughts

- Increasing local content where possible in infrastructure development is important for increasing the broader benefits of infrastructure construction to the local Solomon Islands economy.
- It is important for industry development and more sustainable infrastructure maintenance.
- Private Sector led role and partnership is key.





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