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**Press Release**

**Australia and Fiji: Working together to revitalise its shipbuilding and repair industry**

**8 March 2025**

**Suva, Fiji** – Fiji and Australia are working together to modernise Fiji’s maritime sector and and create economic opportunities for the people of Fiji.

Today, Prime Minister, Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka and Australia’s High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, unveiled a proposed concept design for a new shipbuilding and ship repair facility in Fiji.

A report summarising Stage 1 of the study confirmed the proposed site in Lautoka, and includes a market assessment of regional demand, an assessment of skills and infrastructure, and an evaluation of customer needs. The report reflects the collective effort of a wide range of stakeholders, including Fiji Government, private sector representatives, Fijian universities and training organisations, and international industry experts.

More than just an infrastructure project, this initiative represents an opportunity for skills development and job creation. It is estimated that 100 - 120 staff would be required to be on site during peak operational demand. Discussions are underway with the Ministry of Education on potential investment in vocational training and partnerships to ensure that Fijians are equipped with the skills needed to take up these roles.

At the event, Prime Minister Rabuka announced the establishment of a company, *Oceania Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited* - a reflection of Government’s commitment to restore and strengthen this critical sector.

Prime Minister Rabuka emphasised the significance of the comprehensive study, stating that it represents an important milestone in Fiji’s commitment to revitalise its shipbuilding industry and re-establish Fiji’s position in the global maritime landscape.

High Commissioner McDonald reaffirmed Australia’s commitment to supporting Fiji’s maritime industry.

“The journey ahead will require continued cooperation, but the foundations have been set for a transformative initiative that will drive Fiji’s maritime industry forward. We are proud to support the Prime Minister and Government of Fiji’s leadership and vision, to help make this project a reality,” he said.

The next stage of the study is expected to be completed later this year and will include confirming the technical and commercial viability of the facility, providing investment options and finalising the facility design.

To support Fiji’s maritime aspirations, Australia has committed up to FJD1.7 million for the study and site preparation, a shared priority under our Vuvale Partnership and Memorandum of Understanding on Port Infrastructure and Services.

**ENDS**

**For more information:**

Public Affairs Team

Australian High Commission

public-affairs-suva@dfat.gov.au