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Diaspora 2025 Report

MARKETS AND PEOPLE

NUMBERS:
THE PNG AUSSIES

THE UNTAPPED ASSET

BRAIN DRAIN TO BRAIN GAIN

REMITTENCE:
SALIM KOBLE GO LO PLES

THE BIG 4

WAIGANI REACTIONS:
READY FOR THE CHANGE

CANBERRA SIGNALS:
LOCALLY LED WANOKS

2026
ACTION ITEMS





5-YEAR STRATEGY 2022-2027

THE 4 PILLARS



EMOTION VS. MERIT

Aims to boost citizen involvement in the economy and promote meritocracy through targeted financial support and G2B engagements.



ANALOG VS. SMART

Focuses on digitizing government services to reduce regulatory bottlenecks and leverage financial technology, big data, and emerging technologies to spur growth.



RED TAPE VS. DEREGULATION

Excessive regulations hinder performance and investment, advocating for G2B collaborations to identify sectors capable of self-regulation to foster growth.



G2G VS. G2B

The importance of G2G investments from the West and China in enhancing supply chains and utilities, while emphasizing the need for G2B efforts to maintain standards and safeguards for these infrastructures.

ENGAGING WITH PURPOSE



EXECUTIVE

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LEGISLATIVE

Speaker's Business Breakfast - **PGK 2 - National Content Conference**



JUDICIAL

Chief Justice's Business Breakfast - **PGK 3 Futures Forum**

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- Revenue
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- OpEx
- ESG & Social Enterprise
- Critical Infrastructure
- Digital Government
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DIASPORA 2025

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PNG AUSSIES IN NUMBERS

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THE UNTAPPED ASSET

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PRESIDENT TAKE

For the past 2 years, our initiative, the Coral Sea Dialogue (CSD), have been engaging with the PNG Diaspora business community in Australia. Accounting for 28,000, average age of 45 and 64% have some form of non school leaver qualification, this is perhaps the highest concentration of skilled professionals in any Papua New Guinea community domestically and abroad.

An outcomes of the CSD was to incubate a business council for the diaspora. Am grateful for Leesa Tembi and her team who have established an Interim Diaspora Business Council PNG. First order of business was to undertake a comprehensive survey to hear the level of interest to participate in the PNG market.

Much of the Report highlights key findings of this work in the areas of sectors, remittance and the appetite to invest and trade in PNG. Crucially, it also includes the policy and law reform, both in Australia and PNG, to enhance this important community.

An exciting finding is the overwhelming desire to strengthen Papua New Guinea's development priorities. With their passion and talent, Diaspora are well positioned to dramatically improve the skills gap in the market.

I am grateful for Brenda Cangah, Sean Jacobs and many others that contributed to this Report. Our ambition is to go beyond Australia and foster relations with other communities. It's now time to find wantoks, near and far, to reverse brain drain to brain gain.

Our ambition extends beyond Australia to the cultivation of sustained relationships with other communities. This is a critical moment to mobilise wantoks, both locally and globally, in order to transform patterns of brain drain into processes of brain gain.

PRESIDENT
SUSIL NELSON KONGOI



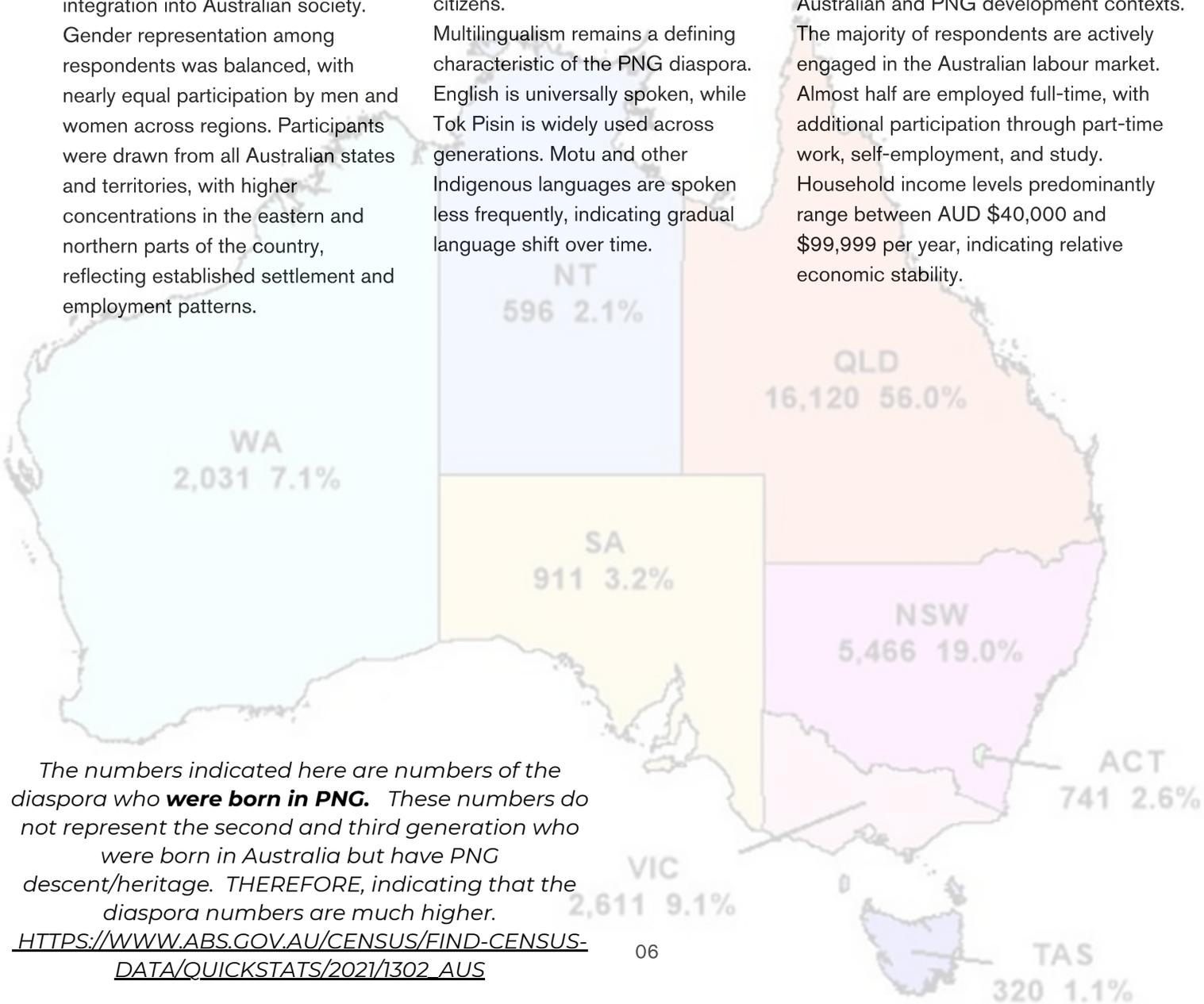
1: PNG Aussies In Numbers

PNG diaspora in Australia is 28,800 with an average age of 45 years. 63.5% had some form of higher non school qualification, compared to 60.1% of the Australian population. Queensland accounts for the highest residence: 16,120 or 56%.

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) diaspora in Australia is diverse, multi-generational, and spread across the country. The community maintains strong ties to both PNG and Australia, socially, culturally, and economically. Survey data from 152 participants shows significant human capital and integration into Australian society. Gender representation among respondents was balanced, with nearly equal participation by men and women across regions. Participants were drawn from all Australian states and territories, with higher concentrations in the eastern and northern parts of the country, reflecting established settlement and employment patterns.

Most respondents are Australian citizens with PNG heritage, demonstrating long-term settlement alongside continued transnational connections. Citizenship data shows that 72 participants are Australian citizens, 42 hold dual Australian–PNG citizenship, and 38 are PNG citizens. Multilingualism remains a defining characteristic of the PNG diaspora. English is universally spoken, while Tok Pisin is widely used across generations. Motu and other Indigenous languages are spoken less frequently, indicating gradual language shift over time.

Educational attainment within the community is notably high. Over half of respondents hold undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications, complemented by strong representation in vocational and trade training. This educational profile underscores the diaspora's capacity to contribute skilled expertise to both Australian and PNG development contexts. The majority of respondents are actively engaged in the Australian labour market. Almost half are employed full-time, with additional participation through part-time work, self-employment, and study. Household income levels predominantly range between AUD \$40,000 and \$99,999 per year, indicating relative economic stability.



*The numbers indicated here are numbers of the diaspora who **were born in PNG**. These numbers do not represent the second and third generation who were born in Australia but have PNG descent/heritage. THEREFORE, indicating that the diaspora numbers are much higher.*

https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/1302_AUS

2: The Untapped Asset

Overall, the PNG diaspora in Australia represents a skilled, economically active, and culturally connected population. It's professional expertise, multilingual capacity, and transnational networks position it as a valuable partner for diaspora engagement initiatives and bilateral cooperation between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The findings show a rise in entrepreneurial activity among the Papua New Guinean (PNG) Diaspora in Australia. Almost 30 percent of respondents reported that they own or operate a business. These businesses cover a variety of sectors, such as retail, construction, creative industries, consulting, education services, and health. This reflects both flexibility and the transfer of skills across different industries.

In terms of longevity, many businesses are less than five years old, showing recent entrepreneurial activity, while quite a few have been around for over a decade. This indicates long-term investment and the ability to withstand challenges within the diaspora.

Business ownership is mostly found in Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales, reflecting the general population distribution of the PNG diaspora. Queensland has the largest share of businesses owned by the diaspora, estimated at around 13 percent. This is due to stronger cultural and social networks that help small businesses grow.



Across all regions, diaspora enterprises are predominantly service-based:

Health and Aged Care: Many are employed as nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, and aged care workers. There are critical roles in Australia's healthcare system.

Education and Training: Teachers, lecturers, and academic researchers contribute across schools, TAFEs, and universities.

Public Service and Policy: Some work in local and state government departments, including in multicultural affairs, Indigenous programs, and policy development.

Engineering, Mining, and Construction: PNG-Australians are represented in technical roles, particularly in Queensland and Western Australia, with overlaps in Australia-PNG resource projects.

Legal and Justice: A growing number of professionals work in legal practice, compliance, and community justice services.

Business and Finance: Diaspora members operate small businesses, work in banking, or consult on bilateral trade and development.

Arts and Creative Industries: Many are involved in cultural preservation, storytelling, and Indigenous and Pacific art forms.

Community Development and NGOs: Strong engagement in diaspora-led initiatives, church groups, youth mentoring, and charity work related to PNG.

With strong representation in the cultural and creative industries, professional services, and the retail trade of PNG related goods, this pattern highlights the diaspora's commitment to sustaining cross-border cultural commerce and advancing diaspora led trade linkages between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Entrepreneurial interest extends well beyond current business owners. Nearly three-quarters of respondents who do not currently own a business expressed openness to starting one. This reflects a substantial pool of latent entrepreneurial potential, which could be activated through targeted diaspora engagement initiatives, improved access to capital, and the reduction of regulatory and structural barriers.

3: Brain Drain To Brain Gain

Despite strong entrepreneurial aspirations, only approximately 14 per cent of respondents are currently engaged in trade or business activities with PNG.

Reported barriers include infrastructure limitations, regulatory delays, financial risks, and trust and logistics challenges, all of which significantly constrain participation. These findings point to a considerable underutilized diaspora trade potential, which could be unlocked through targeted interventions that address systemic barriers and improve the ease of doing business.

Interest in trade and economic participation remains high, with 84 percent of respondents indicating willingness to engage in trade if enabling conditions were improved. Respondents identified opportunities in diaspora-driven cultural commerce, with strong potential to connect PNG's unique identity, products, and services to Australia's consumer market.

However, respondents consistently highlighted perceptions of PNG's business environment as risky, unpredictable, and poorly supported, particularly for foreign-based investors. Key concerns include weak governance frameworks, limited access to reliable business networks, financial risks due to inadequate banking safeguards, weak legal protections, high transportation and logistics costs, and a lack of accessible market information.

There is strong demand for diaspora-specific policy mechanisms and financial instruments to support trade and investment. Respondents emphasized the need for transparent and simplified business registration processes, investment protection guarantees, access to diaspora-targeted financing, tax incentives for non-resident investors, improved banking infrastructure, and clearer institutional transparency. Many respondents noted liquidity constraints and high entry costs as significant barriers to participation.

Capacity building emerged as a critical enabler of diaspora engagement. Respondents expressed strong interest in training focused on:

- PNG business law and regulatory frameworks
- Cross-border trade processes, including compliance, logistics, and risk management
- SME finance and entrepreneurship
- Partnership development and due diligence

Overall, the findings reveal a strong willingness among the PNG diaspora to contribute to national economic development. However, limited exposure to PNG's regulatory, legal, and financial systems continues to hinder engagement. Addressing these structural constraints through targeted reforms and diaspora-focused initiatives is essential to unlocking sustainable, diaspora-led investment and trade growth.



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4: Remittance Trends

Remittances—money sent home by Papua New Guineans living and working abroad—are an emerging yet underutilised economic stream for the country. While other Pacific nations rely heavily on remittance income, Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to record very low levels of formal remittance flows, despite having a growing diaspora in Australia and beyond. According to World Bank estimates, PNG received approximately US\$10.7 million in remittances in 2023.

The recorded figure for 2024 was even lower, at just US\$86,000, highlighting major gaps in reporting, tracking, and formal channels. Much of the PNG diaspora likely sends support home through informal means such as hand-carrying cash, bank transfers outside the central system, or in-kind contributions, which are not captured in national data.

Exploring this trend further, the survey highlighted a high level of participation in remittance activity, reflecting enduring cultural obligations and social responsibility. An estimated 77.6 percent of respondents currently send money to PNG, while 22.4 percent do not remit. This high participation rate underscores the central role remittances play in maintaining family welfare and community stability.

Approximately 78 percent of respondents reported actively and regularly sending money to PNG. These transfers are primarily directed toward meeting essential household needs and supporting immediate and extended family members. The consistency of remittance flows illustrates deeply rooted cultural expectations of mutual support. Notably, a small but growing proportion of respondents are beginning to channel remittances into more productive uses, including housing development and small business investments.

“Remittances remain a critical channel through which the Papua New Guinea (PNG) diaspora sustains strong socio-economic ties with families and communities at home. Despite rising living costs in Australia and increasing financial pressures both locally and in PNG, the diaspora continues to demonstrate strong solidarity and commitment through regular financial support.”



Business ownership within the diaspora complements remittance behaviour, particularly where enterprises generate additional income. For some respondents, remittances form part of a broader financial strategy, including supporting business operations, maintaining properties, or investing in entrepreneurial activities in PNG. This linkage highlights the potential of remittances to move beyond consumption toward income-generating and asset-building activities.

Overall, remittances remain a vital lifeline for families and a stabilising force within PNG’s largely informal economy. However, they are predominantly consumption-driven, with limited pathways toward structured investment. To enhance their developmental impact, diaspora financial flows would benefit from improved enabling mechanisms, including secure and affordable remittance platforms, targeted investment incentives for diaspora-linked businesses, savings-matching or cooperative investment schemes, and strengthened financial literacy alongside improved access to capital.

5: THE BIG 4

1

Immigration Policy as a Bridge for Cooperation

Immigration policy emerged as a central theme in diaspora discussions, viewed not only as a mechanism for mobility but also as a catalyst for trade, skills transfer, and development partnerships. Respondents called for simplified visa processes for PNG citizens, improved family reunification pathways, and more flexible work and study visa options. There was also strong support for clearer permanent residency pathways, reform of existing mobility agreements, recognition of PNG qualifications, and expanded youth and student exchange programs to foster long-term bilateral ties.



2

Trade Opportunities and Structural Constraints

Perceptions of trade opportunities between PNG and Australia were divided. Around 38 per cent of respondents expressed optimism, citing growing demand for PNG products in Australia, geographic proximity that supports logistics, and opportunities in niche cultural markets and emerging service sectors such as consultancy and cultural training. However, a majority of respondents highlighted significant structural barriers, including limited market access for PNG exports, internal capacity constraints, insufficient trade promotion, lack of coordinated government efforts, high costs, and limited brand visibility of PNG products in Australian markets.

3

Rethinking Australia's Aid to PNG

Diaspora respondents expressed strong support for Australia's aid program to PNG, while emphasising the need for a more transformed and locally grounded model. They highlighted the importance of aid that is impactful, inclusive, and responsive to local and diaspora priorities. Key areas identified for increased focus include skills development and education, direct support to PNG-based small and medium enterprises, and initiatives that stimulate local economic growth. Respondents also noted the need for stronger transparency and accountability, alongside greater investment in climate adaptation and rural health systems, which are seen as under-addressed in current aid approaches.



Facilitating Capital Movement and Diaspora Investment

4

High levels of financial interest and engagement were evident within the PNG diaspora, alongside frustration with barriers to cross-border investment. Respondents called for reforms to support capital movement, including improved mechanisms for transferring funds for investment, modern remittance platforms, and the development of dual banking systems. Concerns were raised about high transaction costs, currency instability, limited investor protection, and the absence of diaspora-led investment funds. Addressing these challenges would require more enabling policy frameworks, improved cross-border financial systems, and diaspora-inclusive financial products that support entrepreneurship and development finance.



5: Waigani: Turning Connections Into Capital

From policy to practice, unlocking the full potential of PNG's diaspora requires deliberate leadership and institutional support. Through the establishment of a Minister for Diaspora Affairs, reform of dual citizenship and immigration laws, and the creation of commercial, fiscal, and professional pathways, the government can transform diaspora links into strategic assets. These reforms are not only about embracing citizens abroad, the reforms are about building a resilient, globally connected future for PNG.

Strengthening National Development Through Diaspora Policy Reform:

As Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to deepen its global partnerships, particularly with Australia, there is a growing recognition that its diaspora represents a valuable but underutilised national asset. The PNG diaspora in Australia, with its strong cultural ties, professional skills, and commercial capability, offers enormous potential to drive investment, innovation, and people-to-people relations. To harness this potential effectively, targeted institutional, legal, and policy reforms are needed.

Establishing a Minister for Diaspora Affairs: To elevate the diaspora agenda into the national development framework, the creation of a Minister for Diaspora Affairs is a strategic imperative. This portfolio would ensure that diaspora issues are actively represented at the highest levels of political leadership, policymaking, and bilateral negotiations. The role would provide visibility to diaspora contributions, coordinate inter-agency support, and develop structured policies to facilitate engagement in economic, cultural, and social spheres.

Reforming Dual Citizenship Administration: Despite the legal availability of dual citizenship, a significant portion of the diaspora continues to face delays and complexity in the application process. A dedicated division or fast-track mechanism is required to manage the large volume of applications from Australia, where cultural connections are deep and enduring. Given the unique kinship and heritage ties between PNG and its diaspora, cultural affiliation should be a key consideration in the approval process, distinguishing it from other applicants.

Diaspora as Commercial Ambassadors: Drawing from best practices in other jurisdictions, PNG should consider establishing Commercial Ambassador Programs within its foreign affairs and trade networks. These units would formally link diaspora businesses to trade, investment, and cultural promotion opportunities, facilitating stronger market access and collaboration between diaspora entrepreneurs and businesses in PNG. This initiative can also enhance Australia–PNG commercial relations through sustained business-to-business engagement.

Long-Term Visas and Business Work Permits: to encourage diaspora participation in the PNG economy, a new class of long-term business visa and preferential work permit should be introduced. Tailored specifically for diaspora businesspeople, professionals, and investors, this mechanism would reduce administrative burden and provide legal certainty for those intending to operate across the two economies. It would also attract skilled returnees who can transfer expertise and stimulate local enterprise development.

Customs and Tax Incentives for Diaspora Investment: Fiscal incentives play a crucial role in reducing the cost of doing business across borders. PNG should consider implementing preferential customs tariffs, reduced corporate tax rates, and exemptions on select levies for goods, services, and capital flowing from diaspora-led businesses. These incentives would be particularly impactful in sectors such as agriculture, construction, tourism, and ICT, where diaspora ventures can drive diversification and job creation.

Qualification Equivalence and Professional Licensing: A major barrier to diaspora engagement remains the non-recognition of Australian qualifications in key professions such as accounting, engineering, law, and education. PNG's professional licensing bodies and relevant departments must prioritise establishing qualification equivalency frameworks to enable diaspora professionals to practise, invest, and contribute their expertise. This is essential for bridging the skills gap in critical sectors and promoting knowledge transfer.





Preferential Capital Movement Rules: One of the key barriers diaspora investors face is PNG's rigid foreign exchange controls. While these rules are essential for macroeconomic stability, they can hinder legitimate investment flows, particularly from diaspora individuals whose capital comes from transparent and regulated sources. Diaspora investors should be given preferential treatment under capital movement rules, provided they:

- Demonstrate proof of source of funds in compliance with PNG's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) requirements
- Submit credit histories or financial standing from regulated Australian banks or financial institutions, which are globally trusted and not on any grey or watch lists

Furthermore, the ability to trade in foreign currency especially for import-driven businesses or those with export potential must be supported through flexible policies by the Bank of PNG and commercial banks. Regulatory clarity and efficiency will incentivise more diaspora capital to enter PNG markets.



Unlocking a Strategic National Asset: *The PNG diaspora holds immense potential to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development. By reforming key policy and regulatory barriers—business classification, capital mobility, and access to land—the government can transform diaspora connections into catalytic investments. These reforms are not about bending the rules, but creating smart, targeted pathways to leverage global Papua New Guineans as partners in national development.*

Enabling the PNG Diaspora: Policy Reforms for Business Registration, Capital Mobility, and Land Participation: *Papua New Guinea's (PNG) economic development agenda is increasingly recognising the untapped potential of its diaspora—particularly those based in Australia. With access to capital, skills, and networks, the diaspora can play a transformative role in bridging PNG to global markets. However, several regulatory and legal barriers limit their effective participation. Reforms in business registration, capital movement, and land/resource development are essential to unlock this opportunity.*



Special Business Registration Status for Diaspora: Currently, diaspora individuals are often classified as foreign enterprises when registering businesses in PNG. This inadvertently subjects them to restrictions on reserved sectors and national content requirements, which were never intended to apply to PNG-origin individuals abroad.

A special diaspora business class of registration should be introduced—recognising their unique cultural and national ties. While this status would still uphold national interests, it should provide exemptions from restrictions that hinder diaspora involvement. Registration under this class must clearly identify:

- The sector(s) of intended participation
- The geographical location of the business or project
- The developmental impact in terms of jobs, skills transfer, and community engagement

This targeted registration process would ensure that diaspora contributions are aligned with national goals while removing bureaucratic constraints.



Inclusion in Land and Resource Projects: Another significant barrier lies in land and resource development laws, which prevent non-citizens from participating in the development of customary land and extractive projects. Unfortunately, these laws also capture the diaspora—many of whom are former citizens with deep ancestral ties to land-owning communities. Amending these laws to recognize and include the diaspora, particularly dual citizens or former citizens, would unlock significant benefits:

- Mobilisation of skills and capital to underdeveloped rural and resource-rich areas
- Improved governance of resource ventures through diaspora oversight and standards
- Enhanced community development outcomes through reinvestment of diaspora wealth

A structured framework must be introduced, allowing diaspora groups to legally partner in land-based ventures under customary agreements, while respecting landowner rights and national sovereignty.

6: Canberra Signals: Locally Led Wantoks

The perspectives of the PNG diaspora underscore the importance of policy and structural reform in shaping stronger, more balanced PNG–Australia partnerships. Central to this vision are mobility reforms that ease the movement of people and ideas, aid reforms that empower local and diaspora actors, investment facilitation that securely harnesses diaspora capital, and trade expansion built on trust, promotion, and reliable infrastructure. Collectively, these priorities offer a roadmap for more inclusive and mutually beneficial bilateral engagement.

The Australia–Papua New Guinea (PNG) relationship continues to deepen across multiple domains such as trade, defense, infrastructure, and investment. Within this expanding strategic alliance, the PNG diaspora in Australia is uniquely placed to play a catalytic role in driving mutual economic growth, innovation, and development. Leveraging their cultural fluency, commercial acumen, and sectoral expertise, targeted policy and programmatic support for the diaspora can transform them into frontline partners of national development on both sides of the Coral Sea.

Trade: Diaspora-Led Private Sector Growth: A significant portion of Australia's aid to PNG is increasingly focused on private sector development, particularly through the Australia–PNG Economic Partnership (APEP) program. This initiative targets sustainable growth, job creation, and enterprise development. A strategic pilot project aligned with sectors where diaspora professionals have demonstrated competencies—such as agribusiness, logistics, retail, and ICT—can yield valuable insights into the socio-cultural and commercial dynamics of PNG's evolving marketplace. Such pilots not only support economic diversification but can serve as scalable models for diaspora-led ventures both in PNG and Australia.

The PukPuk Treaty: Building a Joint Defence Industry: The newly signed PukPuk Treaty marks a new era of defence and security collaboration. A robust, bilateral defence industry will be vital to operationalizing this agreement. The PNG diaspora, especially those with defence, logistics, technical, and procurement backgrounds, are well-positioned to provide critical goods and services to both Australian and PNG defence establishments. Given their cultural insight and commercial experience, diaspora businesses should be prioritised in procurement policies and contracting frameworks that emerge from this alliance.

Infrastructure: Diaspora Partnerships in Connect PNG: The Economic Sector Infrastructure Programme—a cornerstone of Australia's aid partnership—aligns closely with the Marape Government's Connect PNG infrastructure strategy. From roads and ports to energy and ICT, diaspora engineers, architects, and project managers represent a powerful reservoir of capability. Recognizing this, there is a strong case for Australian and PNG governments to facilitate preferential partnership arrangements that allow diaspora professionals to partner with PNG construction firms and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), thereby creating skills transfer, quality assurance, and sustainable outcomes in project delivery.

Investment: Incentivising Diaspora-Led Trade and Ventures: Unlocking investment flows to PNG requires creative financial instruments and enabling environments. Investment products such as export finance, concessional loans, or equity co-investment should be tailored to support diaspora-led enterprises that seek to establish operations in PNG with an export pathway back to Australia. Targeted sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and construction present immediate and high-potential opportunities for growth. Federal and State governments in Australia can support through incentives, market access programs, and capacity-building initiatives that de-risk diaspora ventures and enhance competitiveness.

The PNG diaspora in Australia is no longer just a community of shared heritage—it is a strategic asset. Empowering diaspora participation across trade, defence, infrastructure, and investment is essential to realising the full promise of the Australia–PNG partnership. With the right policy settings, pilots, and preferential access mechanisms, the diaspora can become a dynamic bridge between two nations—delivering inclusive growth, resilient partnerships, and a shared prosperity vision.

QUICK TO MARKET: Ports in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, and Gladstone already manage significant freight destined for PNG, and agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), and Biosecurity PNG have established lines of communication and operational coordination. Despite these advantages, scaling up trade requires bridging the gap between strategic potential and actual market outcomes. The final “last mile”—linking businesses in Queensland with PNG-based firms or consumers—remains underdeveloped. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), both in Australia and PNG, face persistent issues such as:

- Lack of market information and awareness
- Perceived and real risks related to compliance, customs, payments, and enforcement
- Limited access to financing and trade credit
- Unfamiliarity with cross-border logistics and regulations
- Fragile infrastructure and slow last-mile delivery in PNG



Governments on both sides must prioritise risk mitigation and actively incentivise business-to-business (B2B) partnerships. This includes:

- **Dedicated Market Facilitation Units:** Establishing Queensland–PNG trade desks or liaison units that provide on-the-ground support, trade advice, and matchmaking services.
- **Export Risk Insurance and Trade Finance Tools:** De-risking entry into PNG markets by offering government-backed guarantees or subsidies for exporters and importers.
- **Infrastructure for Digital Trade Platforms:** Leveraging digital platforms to connect suppliers and buyers, improve transparency, and reduce transaction costs.
- **Supply Chain Resilience Partnerships:** Strengthening cold chain, warehousing, and distribution capacity, particularly for agricultural and perishable products.



QUEENSLAND: THE TEMPLATE FOR THE STATES AND TERRITORIES



With the largest Papua New Guinean diaspora community, existing logistics and supply chain relationships, and close cooperation between ports, quarantine, and trade facilitation services, Queensland stands out as the natural launchpad for scaling up trade between Australia and Papua New Guinea. However, despite this strong foundation, a persistent challenge remains—the “last mile” of private sector participation.

Queensland has become PNG’s primary gateway for imports and exports, with regular shipping routes, air connectivity, and deep-rooted business, educational, and people-to-people ties. PNG’s proximity to northern Australia makes the trade route not only geographically logical but economically efficient. From agricultural commodities to processed goods and building materials, Queensland-based producers and service providers are well-positioned to expand into the PNG market.



To convert strategic proximity into economic prosperity, public-private partnerships must be recalibrated to support direct business engagement. The role of governments should shift from simply facilitating trade to actively catalysing it—through smart regulation, incentives, co-investment, and removing bottlenecks.

This includes embedding private sector representatives in bilateral forums, aligning development aid with trade policy, and building trade promotion strategies that are tailored to real commercial opportunities.

2026 Action Items



Low	Medium	High
<p>Promote diaspora business priorities in government economic forums.</p>	<p>Diaspora Business Council to facilitate members to participate in PNG government investment partnerships and periodically advise on its progress.</p>	<p>Establish a Diaspora Task Force in the current Gov Business Consultative Forum</p>
<p>Promote diaspora business priorities in business forums.</p>	<p>Diaspora Business Council to facilitate members to participate in commercial investment partnerships in PNG and periodically advise on its progress.</p>	<p>Establish Priorities in this Report for the PNG government to enact.</p>
<p>Promote diaspora business priorities in bilateral forums.</p>	<p>Diaspora Business Council to facilitate members to participate in Australian Aid, Federal and State investment projects and periodically advise on its progress.</p>	<p>Establish priorities derived from this Report for the Australian and Queensland government to enact.</p>





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