
Oil Search restores key infrastructure for communities

Media Release

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Oil Search has completed the repair and restoration of damaged sections of roads and bridges in Kutubu and surrounding areas, caused by the 2018 earthquake.

The roads and bridges are an important link to services for more than 80,000 people from Poroma, Kutubu, Moran, Bosavi and further down to Kikori.

On Monday, 27 January, Oil Search handed over the as-built technical documentation of the completed bridges and road works in Homa, Paua, Baguale and Kutubu area to the Department of Works and Implementation in Port Moresby.

The documentation comprises records of the repair work carried out on the 106km provincial Kutubu Access Road, 35km on the Homa Paua Road and the reconstruction of 5 major bridges in between.

Clough Niugini provided engineering and construction management for the repairs and reconstruction of the bridges and roads in Baguale and Homa Paua along with major bridges on the Kutubu Access Road.

With its extensive experience in road maintenance and bridge construction, Clough Niugini was able to complete the repair work on time and within agreed budget.

This was done with the support and meaningful engagement of local landowner companies in line with Oil Search's commitment to skills transfer and local capacity building.

Leon Buskens, Oil Search Senior Vice President for External Affairs thanked all partners and the Department of Works and Implementation for its initial emergency response after the earthquake.

"We acknowledge the Department of Works and Implementation who is accountable for this infrastructure and for the restoration efforts.

"It took two years of hard work and dedication following the 2018 earthquake to restore this important infrastructure for our people.

"Oil Search continues to demonstrate the success of the public-private partnership model and we are adding further value through our ability to self-regulate the standards of roads within the areas that we operate.

"Going forward, all parties must identify a suitable funding mechanism for ongoing maintenance and upgrade of such key infrastructure," Mr Buskens said.

Gabriel Tomtai, Department of Works and Implementation Deputy Secretary thanked Oil Search for working in partnership with the government to deliver a very important link to the people of Southern Highlands, especially Kutubu.

“The Department of Works and Implementation is pleased that we have established a good partnership and wants the partnership to continue so we can deliver vital road infrastructure to our people.”

“We welcome the handover of the technical documentation and more importantly we have opened up the road for our people to have access to vital services,” Mr Tomtai said.

As roads and bridges are state owned infrastructure, the as-built documentation that records the work on the roads and bridges must be handed over to the Department of Works and Implementation.

The company has also completed a significant amount of work on school and health facilities for the benefit of communities affected by the 2018 earthquake.

Ends.

For further information, please contact:

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About Oil Search

Established in January 1929, Oil Search has grown into PNG’s largest Company and investor, operating all the country’s producing oil fields and holding an extensive appraisal and exploration portfolio. Its 29 per cent interest in the ExxonMobil-operated PNG LNG Project has transformed Oil Search into a regionally significant oil and gas producer. The Company also hold material interests in the Elk-Antelope and P’nyang gas fields and is undertaking a range of activities to support further LNG expansion in PNG. Oil Search also holds world class oil assets in Alaska’s prolific North Slope.

Oil Search operates in a socially responsible manner. Respectful, open relationships with local landowners and government are at the heart of its current and future success. The Company is committed to addressing important social issues and aspires to set the standard for private sector contribution to sustainable development.

Oil Search is listed on the Australian (ASX:OSH) and Papua New Guinea (PNGX:OSH) security exchanges and its ADRs trade on the US Over the Counter market (ADR:OISHY). For more information, please visit www.oilsearch.com.

Photos courtesy of Oil Search



Oil Search representatives including Leon Buskens (third from left), Oil Search Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Community handing over the technical documentation to Gabriel Tomtai, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Works and Implementation. They are joined by John Kaio, High Impact Infrastructure Projects (HIIP) Director and Valentine Kambori, HIIP Consultant.



The construction and relocation of the Fia'a River Bridge along the Kutubu Access Road.



Road construction of the Tubagi Slip in Homo Paua.