

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) - 40%
Burrows JV - 60%

Program:

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

Project Name:

Copra Crushing and Coconut Esters Production

Project Location:

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Project Start Date:

1 January 2010

Project End Date:

31 December 2012

Total Grant Funds Approved:

A\$1,175,615

Burrows

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Burrows Pty Ltd is an Australian company which has operated a fuel distribution business in Australia for 35 years. Burrows have formed a joint venture company with Agricom Pte Ltd and Redpark Pty Ltd to undertake a biodiesel project in the Solomon Islands. Agricom is a Singapore based company with 30 years experience as a copra trader throughout the Pacific Islands including Solomon Islands. Redpark has had 8 years involvement in the design, manufacture and operation of a biodiesel production facility.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project will utilise an ECF grant of \$1,175,615 to assist in the establishment of a new coconut processing and biodiesel production facility in Honiara. Copra will be sourced from various communities throughout the Solomon Islands. The project will develop a program to provide suppliers with more efficient copra driers, as well as supplying packing bags in order to overcome a key supply chain impediment.

The new biodiesel operation will supply ultra low sulfur diesel to various customers. The locally produced diesel will partly replace imported diesel and provide a number of environmental benefits. By-products from the process, including copra meal and glycerin, will be used to develop a profitable export market.

BENEFITS TO THE POOR

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Direct employment for up to 20 people (including 7 women) in the production facility
- New skills by local management and staff in the operation of biodiesel production facility
- Up to 450 families around the country involved in copra supply will benefit in terms of a larger and more reliable market for their copra. An estimated 85 per cent of copra gathering is expected to be done by women.

THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

The project partners were not in a position to fully fund the establishment of the production facility. Commercial finance was not available for the project due to the bank's perception of the high risk involved in this type of project in the Solomon Islands. Without ECF support, the project would not proceed and the related economic and community benefits would not be realised.

For more information please visit our website www.enterprisechallengefund.org



Australian Government
AusAID

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AUSAID INITIATIVE

