

# About Pacific RISE

November 2019

Pacific RISE has a goal to attract at least A\$10m of new private investment capital into the Pacific by July 2021 and promote greater investment into social enterprises that deliver women's economic empowerment. It is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and partners with Pacific Trade Invest Australia and the Criterion Institute.

Pacific RISE operates across 14 Pacific island countries and is actively supporting an investment portfolio of A\$15.4m.

A gender lens is applied to each investment and Pacific RISE works closely with gender organisations.

Pacific RISE has developed a range of tools to support moving investment capital to deliver improved social and financial outcomes in the Pacific.

## Our Investment Thesis

Pacific RISE utilises an investment thesis to engage with investors. Its purpose is to sensitise investors to what unique opportunities and challenges that exist in the Pacific. The thesis is not an in-depth analysis of the Pacific's future, but rather focuses on six trends and ideas to prompt investors to think differently about the Pacific. Opportunities within Pacific RISE's portfolio align with one or more of these potential futures:

- Resilience in the face of climate change
- Value chains producing unique quality
- Capturing expanding value in the informal sector
- Geographic position mitigating political risk
- Strength in the domestic labour and purchasing power
- Connected efficiently through tech and transport

Our investment thesis, tools and other reference materials are available on the Pacific RISE website.

[www.pacificRISE.org](http://www.pacificRISE.org)

**Pacific RISE has an investment portfolio of support for Pacific enterprises and vehicles that are investment ready and seeking capital. Below are examples of investable opportunities that are seeking impact finance in the Pacific.**



### REAL IMPACT

REAL IMPACT connects the extraordinary artisan skills of informal economies to the global creative industries of fashion and interior design. Real's Pacific Project is piloting with the four nations of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. REAL IMPACT is seeking over A\$5m in investment in partnership with local PNG investment to develop a design hub in Port Moresby and to develop their global online trading platform and SME Accelerator.

**Impact focus:** Collaboration with local artisans and their communities, building producer-retailer-consumer ecosystems to create a viable creative export industry.

**Country:** PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga

**Sector:** Creative industries



### BULA COFFEE

Bula Coffee is a New Zealand owned Fijian company sourcing coffee beans from the remote highlands of Fiji and processes them for domestic and export markets. Bula Coffee is seeking A\$600k debt investment to develop a coffee plant nursery; a purpose-built processing plant; and an agri-tourism venture in Fiji.

**Impact focus:** Increase income for approximately 1,000 workers (mostly women) in rural areas and greater employment opportunities in the agricultural and tourism sectors.

**Country:** Fiji

**Sector:** Agriculture



### VINAKA

The Vinaka Group was established to improve health outcomes for all Fijians and visiting tourists through the provision of laundry services that prevent disease, clean water through portable water treatment units, and improved sanitation and safe domestic energy through biodigesters.

Vinaka is seeking to raise FJ\$6.9m (A\$4.7m) of capital through equity investment – the capital will be used to purchase equipment for the laundry and provide cash flow for the set up period.

**Impact focus:** Improve health outcomes across Fiji, stable employment opportunities and environmental benefits.

**Country:** Fiji **Sector:** Water and sanitation



### RANADI PLANTATION

Ranadi is Fiji's largest organic ginger farm, growing turmeric, vanilla and a range of other agriculture products. Ranadi is seeking up to A\$2m in debt and equity to expand its ginger processing and packaging facilities to four times the current capacity to meet global demand. Investing in Ranadi will contribute to addressing some of the key challenges of the agricultural sector in Fiji.

Ranadi plans to scale by sourcing from small grower groups across Fiji: acting as the hub for collecting and processing organic produce – this is expected to accelerate the uptake of organic farming practices and facilitate access to market for small farms.

**Impact focus:** Increase income for factory employees and smallholder farmers and reduce environmental impact by expanding organic farming practices.

**Country:** Fiji **Sector:** Agriculture



### GOOD RETURN

Good Return is launching an impact investing fund with the aim of supporting economic development in low-income communities across the Asia Pacific. Good Return is seeking to raise A\$200k in grants used as first loss capital, to de-risk and crowd in A\$800k in loans from impact investors. Good Return works with small business owners in developing countries to understand their needs and prepare for expansion.

**Impact focus:** Stimulate economic development, employment opportunities for low income communities and empower women through gender lens investing.

**Country:** Solomon Islands, Tonga, PNG **Sector:** Currently Agriculture, Fishing and Tourism (sector agnostic)

### Gender-based violence due diligence tool

Eighty percent of intermediaries noted that businesses identified gender-based violence as a material risk for companies. UN Women states that sexual harassment costs a typical Fortune 500 company US\$6.7m a year in absenteeism, low productivity, and employee turnover. This risk is sometimes addressed through business practices, however, investors and intermediaries have no resource to analyse the risk of gender-based violence during the investment due diligence process.

In a world-first, Pacific RISE partnered with the Criterion Institute to design a gender-based violence due diligence tool to assist investors in assessing how gender-based violence poses a set of risks to an investment.

It examines the policies, practices and norms affecting the incidence of violence and builds upon due diligence processes that are standard worldwide for investment in four categories of risk: political, regulatory, operational, and reputational.

The questions in the tool can be added to an investor's existing due diligence processes.

It also includes examples of best practice and has been reviewed by International Women's Development Agency, and investors such as OPIC, Enterprise Angels, SEAF, Pacific Trade Invest Australia and IFC.



Photo: International Women's Day 2011 Honiara [DFAT, Australian Aid](#)

**For more information about these investment opportunities contact**



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