

Newsletter: Bumper budget wrap | Blog redesign | PNG events

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Budget wrap

With whispers of a [diversion](#) of aid funds to intelligence agencies on the eve of the 2017 federal budget, the sector was primed for [further cuts](#). And although those cuts fell in the outer years of forward estimates, they weren't wrong. Stephen Howes analyses the fallout [here](#).

Robin Davies looks at the composition of the 2017 aid budget and [compares](#) this year's allocations to those five years ago. He argues that there is growing dominance of broadly political considerations in aid allocations.

Matt Dornan explores the possible [reasons](#) for the cuts, while Jacqui De Lacy [questions](#) whether our aid is being delivered more effectively, and if we should be concerned about the growing 'national interest' emphasis for aid.

Finally, is there still a budget emergency? Tony Swan says not in a [blog](#) summary of his presentation at last week's aid budget breakfast. If you missed the event and are keen to know more, watch the livestream [here](#) or listen to the podcast [here](#).

Blog redesign

The Devpolicy Blog has had a makeover. If you've not yet visited the new site, we encourage you to do so [here](#). One key change we've made is to divide the content into two streams: one on PNG and the Pacific, and the other on aid and global development. This means you can focus on reading content that interests you. We've applied the same change to the blog email options, with a distribution list for each stream. You can change your subscription preferences through the link in the footer of our emails, or on the blog. For more information, see [here](#). Feedback always welcome – email us [here](#).

PNG history and drought

On Wednesday 24 May at 12.30pm, the Development Policy Centre will host a public [seminar](#) by Dr Bruce Hunt of the ANU School of History, based on his recent [book](#) *Australia's Northern Shield? Papua New Guinea and the Defence of Australia since 1880*. Dr Hunt will discuss the history of the Australia-PNG bilateral relationship from 1970 to Independence, and his use of cabinet notebooks to develop an understanding of historical government policy. You can read more about the event [here](#), and register [here](#).

In 2015, much of PNG was hit by a major drought and a series of destructive frosts. On Wednesday 7 June at 3.15pm, Devpolicy will host a public forum entitled *Drought and famine relief in Papua New Guinea, 2015-2016*, to discuss the implications and the response. More detail [here](#), and register your interest [here](#).

Blog highlights

[A good news story on grassroots governance in PNG](#)

[Cleaning up illegal labour practice](#)

[Culling corruption by hurting the poor?](#)

Upcoming events

The Absence of Trust: Australian strategic thinking and PNG 1950-1975 - Dr Bruce Hunt
12.30 – 1.30pm, Wednesday 24 May, Barton Theatre, Crawford School, ANU. Details [here](#).

Drought and famine relief in Papua New Guinea, 2015-2016
3.15 – 5.15pm, Wednesday 7 June at Lecture Theatre 1, Hedley Bull Centre, Building 130, Garran Road, ANU. Details [here](#).

2017 Pacific Update
20 - 21 June, The University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji. Details [here](#).

2017 PNG Update
10 - 11 August, The University of Papua New Guinea, Waigani Campus, Port Moresby. Details [here](#).

Latest podcasts

[Why forests? Why now? The science, economics, and politics of tropical forests and climate change – Jonah Busch](#)

[2017 Aid budget breakfast](#)

[Coping with high risk and uncertainty in aid policy design and practice - Adam Fforde](#)

On the blog

[Fortnightly links: universal basic income, REDD+, IDAHOBIT, lights out, and more](#)

[The future starts today](#) by Lucas Kiak

[Has the budget emergency gone away? Implications for future funding of Australian aid](#) by Anthony Swan

[Aid, deep thinking, and national security](#) by Jacqui de Lacy

[Opening Australia's extractive data for development](#) by Jessie Cato

[As election looms, PNG political parties should consider supporting informal economy](#) by Busa Jeremiah Wenogo

[Five lean years: how Australia's aid program has tightened its belt](#) by Robin Davies

[Rising to the challenge of the Asia Pacific Century: proposals for the Pacific region](#) by David Morris

[Cleaning up the horticultural labour market: two breakthroughs](#) by Henry Sherrell

[Why has the Coalition cut foreign aid \(again\)?](#) By Matthew Dornan

[Rubi Miranka and the Bougainville Healthy Community Programme](#) by Lhawang Ugyel

[A small target budget with a sting in the tail](#) by Stephen Howes

[A hot aid budget tip from 2014?](#) By Stephen Howes

[Aid for migration: second time lucky with the Australia-Pacific Technical College?](#) By Stephen Howes and Henry Sherrell

[2017 Aid Budget Breakfast – livestream](#) by Ashlee Betteridge

[New look and new email options for Devpolicy Blog](#) by Camilla Burkot, Stephen Howes and Ashlee Betteridge

This is the fortnightly newsletter of the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.