



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS



Request for Information (RFI)

Ministry of Financial and Economic Management, Infrastructure Cook Islands and Asian Development Bank

Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management Works (Rarotonga, Cook Islands)

And

Pa Enua Water Security Works

RFI released:
Deadline for Questions:
Deadline for RFI submission:

On interested party registration, from 20th May 2025
14:00 Cook Islands Standard Time, 30th May 2025
14:00 Cook Islands Standard Time, 6th June 2025

Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Purpose of this RFI.....	3
1.2	Primary objectives of the project	3
1.3	Background to the project.....	3
2	Proposal.....	5
2.1	Proposed Procurement Approach.....	5
2.2	What we are looking for.....	5
3	Responding to this RFI.....	6
3.1	Market Briefing	6
3.2	Contacting us with queries	6
3.3	Response timelines and deadlines.....	6
3.4	Information Available to Respondents.....	6
3.5	Terms and Conditions of this RFI.....	6

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this RFI

The purpose of this RFI is to invite civil engineering construction companies, material suppliers and supply chain management companies to provide information about their views on the proposal and their level of interest, experience and abilities in constructing, supplying and delivering proprietary materials, and fabricating off site materials for the construction of a flood management project on Rarotonga (Muri and Titikaveka), and improving the water security in the Pa Enuā (specifically Aitutaki, Atiu, Mitiaro and Mangaia).

This RFI is a tool for Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) and Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) and its stakeholders to gauge the level of interest and capacity from the supplier market, to consider views on how to deliver the extent of the flood management works and water security works, receive feedback on the proposed timing and programme of the work and identify risks and opportunities to improve delivery of the projects for all parties.

This RFI will not be used to select or shortlist suppliers. It will help inform MFEM and ICI and its stakeholders on the development of the final delivery models, programme and specifications to then prepare a requests for tenders from the supplier market.

Participation in this RFI process will aid potential suppliers with an appreciation of the scope, scale, underlying issues and requirements for MFEM and ICI and provide an opportunity to shape the final delivery model to best align the demands and requirements of the projects with the capabilities and interests of the supplier market.

1.2 Primary objectives of the project

The primary objectives of the Muri and Titikaveka flood management project are to:

- Improve the quality of water being discharged into the lagoon, particularly the Muri lagoon.
- Reduce the level of existing flooding experienced in the Muri and Titikaveka catchments.
- Increase resilience of the affected areas to climate change and recovery from large storm events.

The primary objectives of the Pa Enuā water security project are to:

- Increase the resilience of the Pa Enuā to climate change related droughts.
- Support other efforts to increase resilience of the Pa Enuā.

1.3 Background to the project

1.3.1 Increased levels of flooding

Rarotonga is increasingly experiencing environmental challenges associated with climate change, particularly in the form of intensified rainfall events, frequent flooding, and declining lagoon water quality. The island's tropical climate, coupled with shifting weather patterns, has led to heavier and more prolonged rainfall, overwhelming drainage systems and flash floods that pose risks to residential areas, infrastructure, and agricultural land. These flooding events not only disrupt daily activities but also accelerate soil erosion, further impacting coastal stability and contribute to sedimentation in the lagoon. The influx of runoff carrying nutrients, pollutants, and debris into the lagoon has placed significant pressure on its fragile marine ecosystem, affecting water clarity, coral reef health, and marine biodiversity.

The lagoon surrounding Rarotonga serves as a vital economic and cultural resource, supporting livelihoods through fishing, tourism, and recreational activities. However, ongoing pollution from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharge, agriculture and land-based development has led to a decline in water quality, with some areas experiencing algal blooms and reduced biodiversity. As climate change continues to exacerbate extreme weather events, it is imperative to implement proactive and sustainable measures to safeguard Rarotonga's environment. Initiatives aimed at improving drainage infrastructure, reducing land-based sources of pollution, and strengthening climate adaptation strategies will be essential to building long-term resilience. It can also assist communities to respond and recover to flooding emergencies more quickly and effectively, thereby potentially reducing the overall impact of disasters. Through coordinated efforts and community engagement, enhancing and protecting the island's natural resources will

ensure a sustainable future for residents and generations to come.

1.3.2 Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management Works

The Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management Project focuses on building community and urban resilience to flood risks in the Muri and Titikaveka catchments, through the use of nature-based solutions and integrated flood management solutions. The aim is to harmonise flood management techniques with the natural environment.

The Project intends to implement flood management solutions in and around the lower catchments in the following areas:

- **Muri:** primarily in and around the Parengaru, Aremango, Areiti and Nukupure Streams, and associated flow paths and wetland areas.
- **Titikaveka:** primarily in and around the Taipara, Totokoitu, Turoa and Akapua streams, as well as the Papaaroa School, Kent Hall and Enua Manea sub catchments.

Works will likely include:

1. Enhance selected existing natural swamp / wetland areas to allow for controlled storage and treatment of stormwater.
2. General stream rehabilitation, riparian planting, erosion protection and stabilisation at selected watercourses.
3. Replace or upgrade damaged or undersized culverts.
4. Debris management features in streams / flow paths.
5. Maintenance access for stormwater / flood management assets.
6. Local road drainage improvements at flood prone areas.
7. Community / educational features at constructed wetland sites (e.g. boardwalks, information boards etc).
8. Repair / replace failing and/or non-compliant sanitation infrastructure at properties adjacent to the stormwater / flood management project locations.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the client organisation for this Project. The Executing Agency is MFEM, and the Implementing Agency is ICI.

It is estimated that the total Works including any supporting professional services contracts will not exceed USD\$9M (approximately NZD\$14.4M).

1.3.3 Responding to drought and impacts of climate change on water security

Water security for daily consumption and agricultural use remains a challenge in the Cook Islands, particularly for Aitutaki and the outer islands (Pa Enua).

The anticipated impacts of climate changes further threaten water security, particularly in the Pa Enua. The remoteness of the Pa Enua means that reduced rainfall and prolonged drought has the potential to have significant impact on livelihoods, health and also the land and marine eco systems.

The security of public and private water supply infrastructure is vital, as is security of the various sources of the water supply. While reduced rainfall and prolonged droughts will impact water supply, the potential increase in water demand also needs to be considered.

Though other responses to potential drought conditions will need to be considered, its essential that there is a minimum base level of water storage in the residential properties of the Pa Enua to minimise the regularity of the need to respond, and limit the responses to extreme situations.

1.3.4 Pa Enua Water Security Works

The water security project in the Pa Enua will increase the community resilience on the Islands of Aitutaki, Atiu, Mitiaro and Mangaia through the provision of 6,000 litre rain harvesting storage tanks at approximately 1,000 dwellings. The new tanks will augment existing storage increasing capacity from 6,000 litre to 12,000 litre at each dwelling.

However, additional to the supply of the tanks and where required, it is anticipated that the installation could also include ancillary components such as tank foundations, roof guttering, pipework and associated fittings.

It is estimated that the total Works including any supporting professional services contracts will not exceed USD\$3M (approximately NZD\$4.8M).

2 Proposal

2.1 Proposed Procurement Approach

2.1.1 Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management Works

The proposed procurement approach is to split the construction works into material supply contracts, and several construction contracts, with packages being progressively released.

We are proposing the following packages for the Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management works:

- 1) Local materials supply contract (likely large precast culverts sections).
- 2) International materials contract (likely small diameter culverts and gabion baskets).
- 3) Stream / river outlet construction contract.
- 4) Stream Improvements Contract (including small diameter culverts, road side drains / swales) .
- 5) Wetlands / detention basins contract.
- 6) Domestic onsite sanitation system upgrade / repair / replacement contract.

We are expecting that the first materials supply package will be released for tender Q2 of 2026, with the remaining contracts being progressively released over the course of 2026 and early 2027, with an expected completion of all physical work prior to the end of 2027.

Each tender period will likely be 6-8 weeks, followed by a bid evaluation and selection of a preferred tenderer within 6 weeks of bid submissions.

2.1.2 Pa Enua Water Security Works

We are proposing the following packages for the water security in the Pa Enua:

- 1) Materials supply (for tanks and pipework)
- 2) Tank Installation Package 1 – Aitutaki (approximately 480 tanks)
- 3) Tank Installation Package 2 – Atiu, Mitiaro and Mangaia (approximately 520 tanks)

We are expecting that the materials supply package will be released for tender Q2 of 2026, with the remaining contracts being progressively released over the course of 2026, with installation occurring over 2027 and potentially part of 2028.

Each tender period will likely be 6-8 weeks, followed by a bid evaluation and selection of a preferred tenderer within 6 weeks of bid submissions.

2.2 What we are looking for

We are seeking feedback via the RFI response form from supply chain management companies, civil engineering construction companies, drainage / plumbing companies and stakeholders about the proposal, and of their interest, experience and abilities in manufacturing materials, supplying materials to the Cook Islands and constructing civil works in ecologically sensitive areas.

We are seeking feedback that will help inform MFEM and ICI, and their stakeholders on the development of the final procurements approach (including the make-up of the material supply and construction packages), and overall programme that will allows us to prepare requests for tenders from the supplier market.

What we don't want are offers of professional services, construction services or financing of the project. This RFI will not be used to select or shortlist suppliers.

3 Responding to this RFI

3.1 Market Briefing

We will be holding an online market briefing at **13:00 Cook Island Time (CKT) on Thursday 29th May 2025** where you will have an opportunity to hear more about the project and to ask questions about this RFI if desired.

Parties wishing to attend the briefing should have registered their interest via the Advance Procurement Notice released as part of this process.

No attendees list or minutes of the market briefing will be produced or provided.

Attending the market briefing is optional and does not preclude an interested party from subsequently submitting an RFI response or participating in a future procurement process for this project.

An RFI Response Form is provided below and as a separate attachment containing a response template and questions, which outline the information sought.

3.2 Contacting us with queries

All enquiries regarding this RFI must be directed to our Point of Contact. We will manage all external communications through this Point of Contact.

Point of Contact: Gordon Brown

Point of Contact Email address: infrastructure@cookislands.gov.ck

3.3 Response timelines and deadlines

The timeline for this RFI process is below. All dates and times are dates and times in Cook Islands Standard Time:

RFI Release: 20th May 2025

Deadline for questions: 30th May 2025, 14:00 CKT

Deadline for MFEM / ICI to answer questions: 3rd June 2025, 14:00 CKT

Deadline for Responses: 6th June 2025, 17:00 CKT

Please submit your RFI responses via email to our Point of Contact as noted in 3.2 above, before the Deadline for Responses.

3.4 Information Available to Respondents

The following documents will be made available to Respondents to inform their RFI response:

1. Cook Islands Flood Management and Water Security Works – RFI Questionnaire
2. Scope – Muri and Titikaveka Flood Management
3. Procurement Programme – DRAFT

3.5 Terms and Conditions of this RFI

The following terms and conditions apply to the market briefing, RFI Response and the RFI process:

- a. You must bear all your own costs in preparing and submitting your response.
- b. You represent and warrant that all information provided to us is complete and accurate.
- c. We may rely upon all statements made in your response.
- d. We may amend, suspend, cancel and/or re-issue the RFI at any time.

- e. We may make any material change to the RFI (including any change to the timeline, Requirements or Evaluation Approach) on the condition that Respondents are given a reasonable time within which to respond to the change.
- f. We both agree to take reasonable steps to protect the other's confidential information.
- g. This RFI is for information purposes only and is not to be construed as representing or creating any binding relationship between us, or obligation on MFEM or ICI or their stakeholders to enter any legal commitment whatsoever or as being any commitment by us to make any purchases of services.
- h. Our RFI comprises this document, and any subsequent information we provide to suppliers.
- i. The laws of the Cook Islands shall govern the RFI and RFI process.
- j. In attending the market briefing and/or submitting your RFI Response, you are deemed to have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.
- k. All information and related documentation provided by the respondent in respect of this RFI must be presented in the English. Tenders presented in Maori or any other language must be provided with an English translation.
- l. In order for foreign companies to carry out business in the Cook Islands, an application for, and approval, must be sought from the Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB). This is not required to take part in this RFI response. Information can be found at www.btib.gov.ck.