

State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

of the

AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE REPORT

***Strengthening our Neighbour:* Australian and the Future of Papua New Guinea**

Date: Wednesday 8 June 2005
Time: 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: Seminar Room D
Coombs Building, RSPAS (9)
The Australian National University

In a cover note to *Strengthening Our Neighbour: Australia and the future of Papua New Guinea*, ASPI says that one aim in publishing the report is to 'promote public debate'. While there have been particular assessments and many casual comments, the Report has not been subjected to any comprehensive review since its release in December 2004.

Given the significance of the relationship, the magnitude of the aid, the shifting emphases with the Enhanced Cooperation Program and the poverty of media reporting on Australian policy in Papua New Guinea, it is most important that *Strengthening Our Neighbour* be subject to public scrutiny.

The aim of this roundtable is to bring together the authors of the ASPI Report and others concerned with Australian policy towards Papua New Guinea to discuss the analysis and recommendations put forward in *Strengthening our Neighbour*. Expected participants include those from government, non-government agencies and the universities. Nominated initial speakers will be given five minutes to introduce particular issues raised in the Report. The chair will endeavour to allow a wide range of views to be expressed. The authors may choose to join in general discussion, but they will also have the opportunity to make a general response.

David Hegarty, Convenor, State Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, will chair the roundtable.

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