

4. Agro-Photovoltaic Solar Project in Ovalau

In August 2020, this proposed project at Ovalau has received approval from the Green Climate Fund. This is a unique project in the region where agriculture activity will be continuing under the elevated solar panel structure. The project cost is USD 3.9M and will have suitable BESS so that the solar energy can be safely exported to the EFL grid. The proposal is being developed so that sustainable and integrated approach can be taken to ensure food security along with energy security for the Island in a sustainable manner making Ovalau island 100% renewable energy by 2025.

Looking Forward to the Future

Renewable Energy Projects

1. Qaliwana and Upper Wailoa Diversion Hydro Development Scheme

The feasibility study funded by the EIB is in the final stage despite the hindrance and setback experienced in 2020. The final report is expected by Q2-2021 due to the delays caused by Covid-19 travel restrictions. The geotechnical investigation at certain sites have been deferred due to site access restrictions which will be completed in due course prior to the development of the project. The decision on the development model such as IPP, JV or by self-funded EFL project, will be taken later in 2021 once the feasibility report is on hand and the new shareholders are on board after the partial divestment exercise is completed.

2. Namosi Hydro & Lower Ba Hydro Development Schemes

EFL is liaising with the Office of the Australian High Commission in Fiji for the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) to carry out detailed feasibility studies for the Namosi Hydro Scheme which is located in the Central Division of Viti Levu via grant aid.



The feasibility studies for the Lower Ba Hydro Scheme in Western Division of Viti Levu will be carried out by the European Investment Bank (EIB) via grant aid on completion of the feasibility studies for the Qaliwana/Upper Wailoa Hydro Scheme in 2021.

3. Development of 132kV Transmission Network from Virara Settlement to Rarawai, Ba

Due to the wide spread impact of Covid-19 and WHO declaring a pandemic, the international borders were closed as countries started to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the virus within their borders. This made the face to face interviews impossible with the various bidders to negotiate the contracts for the development of this 132kV transmission network as travel restrictions were in place.

The process of negotiations with the three (3) contractors began in April 2020 and continued with hiccups due mainly to the lockdowns imposed in various cities around the world such as New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and Adelaide apart from our home cities such as Suva and Lautoka, where the concerned Contractors and Consultants were located.

The team had to depend only on Video or Audio conference calls and email exchanges of legal contract documents to progress the onerous task— drafting, correcting of legal clauses and discussion of various hitches so that both parties (EFL & Contractor's) can agree. If this was done face to face it would have been far more efficient but constraints imposed by Covid were beyond anyone's control. Finally, after 31 sessions of Video conference calls on Zoom (Microsoft TEAMS or Skype etc) and numerous teleconference calls, the contracts were finally signed off on 17th August 2020.

One of the bidders for the development of the 132kV Transmission Network from Virara to Koronubu, Ba terminated its contract with EFL due to the covid-19 pandemic. This was totally outside EFL's control. Fresh tender bids were called for the design and construction of this transmission line and the bids will be evaluated and awarded to the successful bidder in the first half of 2021.

This project has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic but will be developed commencing in 2021 and anticipate completion by end of 2022, if travel restrictions are lifted internationally.