



MEDIA RELEASE

FIJI FLOODS

The President of the Australia Fiji Business Council, Brian Anderson, has today written to the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Interim Prime Minister of Fiji urging both governments to set aside their political differences in the interests of delivering meaningful assistance to the people of Fiji in the aftermath of the catastrophic flooding in Fiji.

Mr Anderson said the capacity of the people of Fiji to cope with damage to infrastructure, personal property, crops and business is extremely limited.

“There is no doubt that it will be a long road back both for the national economy and for individual people at all levels of society.”

In previous disasters in Fiji the Australian Government has offered to the Fiji Government considerable in kind support to supplement Fiji’s limited capacity.

The Council recognises that at first glance both governments might consider such assistance to be out of the question in the light of the current dysfunctional political relationship, but the relationship between the peoples of our two countries is much longer and deeper than the life of the two governments. Indeed it is longer than the existence of the countries as sovereign states.

The people of both countries expect their governments to work together to provide meaningful assistance to the people of Fiji in their time of need.

Mr Anderson said the Council stands ready to use its good offices in any way which will assist produce such an outcome.

BRISBANE
15 January 2009