RSE: A road we’re traveling

PNG- Australia Partnership Conference
Sydney, Friday 30 May 2008

Alastair Bisley
1. Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) began April 2007

- Seasonal labour scheme for the horticulture and viticulture industries
- Preference for island members of the Pacific Islands Forum
- Particular rules and processes to enhance benefits, mitigate risks
Why did New Zealand do it?

- Industry labour shortages
- In a time of high employment
- Government’s Growth and Innovation agenda
- Pacific agenda for regional economic development
- National and international studies on the significance of labour mobility for the Pacific
- Melanesia’s claims to attention
Complex objectives

• Allow horticulture and viticulture industries to supplement their NZ workforce when necessary

• Promote best practice for growth and productivity of horticulture and viticulture industries

• Encourage economic development, regional integration and good governance in the Pacific

• Ensure Pacific workers are adequately paid and benefit financially

• Promote the reputation of New Zealand immigration and employment relations systems
Multiple stakeholders

• The New Zealand Horticulture and Viticulture Industries
  Relief from seasonal crises
  • Pacific Island countries
    Wish to export labour for growth and stability
  • The New Zealand Horticulture and Viticulture Industries
    Relief from seasonal crises
  • New Zealand labour force
    Wants to preserve (and enhance) jobs, wages, conditions

Assisted by

• Variety of government departments
• IGOs
Detailed rules and processes for

Establishing labour shortages

- Registering as an RSE
- Securing Agreement to Recruit
- Selection and recruitment
Extensive collaborative arrangements

National and local level governance groups

Kick-Start Forums
Evolution

Phase in arrangements (TRSE)

Travel costs for far-distant states
Rule changes
Collaboration?

Industry change?
Evaluation

Report back to Cabinet in October 2009

- How was the programme implemented?
- How effective were the measures taken?
- What were the outcomes for stakeholders?
- How well were risks managed?