

# MIKE SHARROCKS CONSULTANCY

Tourism Feasibility • Development Planning • Urban Design • Urban Regeneration • Environmental Appraisal

## Vanuatu

### PORT VILA INTEGRATED URBAN IMPROVEMENTS

**For the Asian Development Bank, 2018**

This Asian Development Bank Transaction Technical Assistance project (TA-9347-REG) supported the Government of Vanuatu with preparation of an urban infrastructure investment framework for the capital, Port Vila. The beneficiary agency was the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Fraser Thomas Ltd was commissioned to undertake the project work, and they appointed Mike Sharrocks as the Urban Planner in the multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Greater Port Vila Urban Development Strategy (UDS) early on during the assignment.

The UDS functioned as an initial basis for integrated urban development and long-term sustainable growth to 2030, and would lead to the identification of infrastructure projects during the latter stages of the ADB programme. Vanuatu is one of the most disaster risk-exposed countries in the world. Thus, population growth had to be accommodated with a paramount need for disaster risk reduction and urban resilience. The land area of the UDS covered 289kms<sup>2</sup>, incorporating all of Port Vila Municipal Council (PVMC), with the greatest portion of the plan being peri-urban and part of Shefa Province.

The UDS population of roughly 75,000, mostly living within the PVMC, was forecast to increase to 103,000 by 2030. This significant expansion of housing need had to avoid 'very high' or 'high' disaster risk areas, with the implementation of mitigation measures in existing settlements. Land ownership constraints were also a key factor in planning for population growth. Furthermore, the UDS had to account for increasing traffic congestion in the central urban area, as well as seek to enhance Port Vila's role as the country's main tourism base, and to pursue economic growth and diversification.



The town greatly benefitted from a recently-built central waterfront promenade and park, and the UDS intended to build on this with further environmental improvements in conjunction with proposals for town centre management.



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