

# Status and Implementation of the Peace Agreement and Implications for Referendum

15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 has been set as the target date for a referendum to decide on Bougainville's political future. The delayed referendum is one of 'three pillars' contained in the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement, which outlines:

- autonomy arrangements for an autonomous Bougainville Government;
- a constitutionally guaranteed referendum to be held 10-15 years after the election of the autonomous Bougainville Government; and
- a weapons disposal plan

This report aims to highlight the critical issues emerging from the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and possible implications for the Administration of the Referendum preparations and the Outcome and its implementation.

The report begins with a high-level summary of the Bougainville conflict and subsequent peace process to explain why a referendum is being held in Bougainville. This is followed by a review of progress made between 2001-2018 on the two conditions for setting the date of the referendum: weapons disposal and good governance.

The objective is to highlight the key issues that need to be addressed urgently in order to have a successful and credible referendum outcome.

## **About the Author**

Kylie McKenna is a sociologist at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney. She is the author of *Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resource Conflict*, which explores the dynamic nexus of business, conflict and peace building in Bougainville and West Papua.

Kylie has published widely on topics as diverse as post-colonialism, law, aid, revenue distribution, security and the environment. She has undertaken research in a diversity of contexts globally, ranging from qualitative interviews in the headquarters of multinational extractive companies to fieldwork in communities affected by armed conflict. She has particular knowledge and experience working in Papua New Guinea where she has taught social research methods and facilitated workshops on climate change adaptation.

For more information on Kylie's publications please visit the website below  
<https://www.uts.edu.au/staff/kylie.mckenna>