**Scenario 3: Proposed Luxury Resort at Marau Sound, Guadalcanal Province**

**Project Reference No:** MECDM/EIA/2024/029

**Project Name:** Marau Beach Resort and Villas

**Project Proponent:** Dolphin Cove Resorts Limited

**Proponent's Email:** environment@dolphincoveresorts.com.sb

**Proponent's Phone:** +677 25696

**Project Location:** Marau Sound, Guadalcanal Province (9°25'52"S, 159°53'06"E)

**Type and Purpose:**

The project involves the development of a luxury beach resort and villa complex to support the tourism industry in Guadalcanal Province. The proposed high-end resort aims to attract international tourists and provide premium accommodation in a pristine coastal location.

**Project Description:**

Dolphin Cove Resorts Limited, a local hospitality company, is proposing to develop a 5-star luxury beach resort and villa complex at Marau Sound on the western coast of Guadalcanal. The 20-acre beachfront property was recently acquired on a 50-year lease from the local landowning tribes.

Key components of the proposed resort development include:

* 60 premium guest villas and 40 hotel suites
* A central resort complex with restaurant, bar, spa, and lounges
* An outdoor event venue and 300-person conference facility
* Recreational amenities like swimming pools, tennis courts, water sports facilities
* Staff housing quarters and utility facilities (power, water treatment, waste management)
* Landscaping and marine infrastructure like a small jetty/pier

The project is being designed with a focus on environmental sustainability and aims to minimize impacts on the relatively undisturbed coastal and marine environment of Marau Sound. The capital investment for the project is estimated at SBD 380 million, with a construction timeline of 2-3 years. Key environmental considerations include coastal erosion, wastewater management, biodiversity impacts, and increased tourism pressures on the area.