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PJV environmental report ready

By ERIC TAPAKAU

THE impacts of Porgera Joint Venture on the Strickland, Porgera and Lagaip rivers will now be communicated in a more understandable way to the communities, thanks to the launch of the Report Card by Porgera Environment Advisory Komiti (PEAK).

The Report Card also provides a means of demonstrating accountability and transparency in reporting on environmental outcomes.

Minister for Mining Sir Puka Temu was supposed to have launched the Report Card but

Mineral Resources Authority managing director Kepas Wali did the honours when Minister Temu could not attend.

Mr Wali said the Report Card showed how well PJV was doing in protecting the important environmental values in the Strickland River system and helped to highlight areas of concern that might warrant additional attention of action.

These environmental values include water quality, health and abundance of fish, prawns and other aquatic resources, biodiversity (species loss) and ecosystem productivity.

"The Report Card shows that

PJV is having a measurable effect on the condition of the Strickland River system compared with the background. These effects are most noticeable and of most concern close to the mine particularly in the Porgera and Lagaip rivers," Mr Wali said.

"There are a few concerns further down the river system. We can conclude that the system was quite healthy in 2008 (when most of the data were collected)."

He congratulated PEAK on the launch of the Report Card on the health of the Strickland River system as it was the first Report Card on the environmental impacts of a mine in PNG and prob-

ably a first in the world.

"The key findings of the Report Card are clear, the mine is having a measurable effect on the Porgera and Lagaip Rivers close to the mining operations but the rest of the river system is generally in good health," Mr Wali said.

"Report Cards such as that launched today will go a long way to reassuring the community (locally and internationally) that PNG is serious about protecting its environment and has in place transparent and means of demonstrating accountable processes in reporting on environmental outcomes."