

## ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING OF 9-12 OCTOBER 2000

Attendees:

Komiti Members

- Yati Bun - Chairman (Foundation for People and Community Development)
- Graeme Batley - CSIRO, PJV/Placer Advisor
- Michael Kiap - PNGUT, PNG Govt Advisor
- Pete Neilans - PJV (Porgera Mine)
- Bob Pidgeon - ERISS, NGO Advisor
- Michael Rynkiewich - NGO (Melanesian Institute)
- Gerard Saleu - NGO (Institute of Medical Research)
- Ani Topurua - Govt, (Department of Mining)
- Marguerite Young - (Alt for Michael Rae) NGO, (World Wide Fund for Nature).

Apologies:

- Michael Rae - NGO, World Wide Fund for Nature
- Pawa Limu - Govt, Office of Environment and Conservation

Regular Observers:

- Evert van den Brand - Managing Director, Placer Niugini Limited
- Tim Omundsen - Manager, Environment, Porgera Joint Venture

Invited Observers :

- Peter Dorflinger - Community Affairs, PJV (part time)
- Stuart Jones - NSR (part time)
- Matthew Kawei - Environment, PJV (full time)
- Greta Kwasnicka - Community Affairs, PJV (part time)
- Kai Lavu - Community Affairs, PJV (part time)
- Peter Leahy - Community Affairs, PJV (part time)
- Dr Jethro Usurup - Loss Control, PJV (part time)
- Lucas Kalava - Community Affairs, PJV (part time)

Procedural Matters

Following the resignation of Evert van den Brand, Pete Neilans was nominated and subsequently elected to PEAK as the representative of PJV.

Ani Topurua informed the meeting that she was going for further studies overseas and wished to tender her resignation and proposed that Ms Patricia

Pepeña to be elected to PEAK as a representative of the Department of Mining. The Komiti subsequently agreed to elect Patricia to the Komiti.

The meeting also recommended that additional NGO organisations be invited to join PEAK. In particular Environmental Law Centre and Conservation International were recommended. (Mel Togolo to action)

Following a decision from the previous meeting about meetings of sub-committees prior to the main meeting, the Chairman asked for views of members as to whether such a format was useful. It was decided that the item should come under other business.

## Agenda Item 2

### Notes of Previous Meeting

Notes of the previous meeting were adopted as true record of the meeting.

## Agenda Item 3

### Action Items/Matters Arising

Matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with and action items were reported on.

### Item 1

#### Personal Biodata for PEAK Website

All members were asked to update their biodata and new members will be asked to provide short biodata e.g. name, qualifications, current position held, name of organisation working for and why interested to participate in PEAK. (Evert van den Brand to action)

### Item 2

#### Matrix of CSIRO Recommendation

An updated matrix of recommendations was given out to all members. All members were asked to familiarise themselves with the recommendation and make comments where necessary.

### Item 3

#### PEAK Annual Report

The draft Annual Report 2000 will be circulated before the next meeting (Mel Togolo and Tim Omundsen to action)

#### Item 4

##### Freshwater Tortoise Samples for Test

It was reported that freshwater tortoise muscle samples collected for trace metal analyses deteriorated during transit to Queensland Department of Primary Industries Animal Research Laboratory (QPDI) and could not be analysed. New samples will be collected and the results will be presented at the next meeting (Tim Omundsen/Matthew Kawei to action)

#### Item 5

##### Dietary Survey

As Dr. Peter Sapak was unable to attend the meeting, his dietary survey for Tomu on the Lower Strickland River and for Wankipe on the Lagaip River will be presented at the next meeting (Tim Omundsen and Peter Sapak to action)

#### Item 6

##### Health Training Model

A rural health-training model consistent with the National Health Plan and capable of accreditation by the Health Department will be developed to train rural health workers (J Usurup/G Saleu to action)

#### Item 7

##### Strickland River Overflow

People of Lake Murray should be informed of Strickland River overflowing into the Mamboi during the last flooding and that it was not caused by the operation of Porgera mine. A draft flyer to explain the situation was shown to the Komiti. The flyer will be finalised and distributed to the and explained to the people (Tim Omundsen and Greg McNee to action).

#### Item 8

##### Additional Members

The Komiti recommended that additional NGO groups be invited to join PEAK. In particular it was suggested that Environmental Law Centre, an offshoot of ICRAF, and Conservation International be invited (M Togolo to action)

## Item 9

### Lake Murray Water Quality Sampling

Pawa Limu to be asked to brief the Komiti on the presentation of the results of the water quality survey of Lake Murray at the next meeting (T Omundsen to action)

## Item 10

### Meeting with Wep Kanawi

To clear allegations of Wep Kanawi that "mystery deaths" were a result of Toxic waste from the Porgera mine, the Komiti decided that a small team meets with Mr. Kanawi and explain the situation surrounding the deaths (G Saleu/J Usurup/Y Bun to action)

## Item 11

### Visioning Process

The Komiti agreed to set aside time for a visioning process on PEAK's future. This should take place prior to the next meeting (E van den Brand/Y Bun/M Togolo to action)

## Agenda Item 4

### Environmental Performance

Tim Omundsen briefed the Komiti on Porgera's environmental performance. In summary: -

- All compliance requirements were met.
- Public hearing for WUPs took place in July and August.
- An external DNV audit was carried out and Porgera was given a Level 3 rating.
- A new gauging station has been established on the Aipulungu Creek.
- The Komiti was told that the open pit drainage tunnel would be completed by January 2001.
- Certain areas of the mine were undergoing re-vegetation.
- Some staff of the Environment Department attended courses in Darwin, Australia.
- All necessary work to be carried out by the Community Affairs Department continued to be implemented.
- Environment Department will continue studies on mine derived

"signature" metals, elevated trace metals in freshwater prawns, paste and metal removal studies and participate in PACRIM 2 Remote Sensing of the Lower Strickland River.

#### Item 4.1 Agenda

##### CSIRO Recommendation/Implementation

The Komiti was given the updated October 00 draft version the CSIRO recommendation matrix and some acknowledgement was made as required under Komiti protocol. The acknowledgements will be completed at the next meeting.

##### Agenda Item 4.1.1

##### Strickland and Mamboi Hydraulic Connection.

Stuart Jones of NSR briefed the Komiti of the results of his fly-over of the hydraulic connection. This fly-over and literature review determined that PJV was not responsible for Strickland River overflowing into Lake Murray via the Mamboi River hydraulic connection.

The literature review concluded that;

- The hydraulic connection between the Strickland River and the Mamboi River was a natural process,
- The recent hydraulic connection was due to the extremely high floods observed in the Strickland River during the first six months of 1998,
- Therefore PJV is not responsible for the recent spillover from the Strickland River into the Lake Murray.

The review recommended the following: -

- In the event the hydraulic connection is re-established PJV should measure the flow entering the Mamboi River,
- Gauging of the Herbert River should also be undertaken,
- Water profile surveys should supplement water flow measurements,
- Hydrology measurements should continue for as long as the hydraulic connection exists in order to quantify inflow into Lake Murray.

##### Agenda Item 4.1.2

##### Mercury Cycling in Lake Murray

Graeme Batley made the brief.

The study concluded that;

- No elevated sources of mercury to lake Murray were identified,
- Elevated concentrations in fish is the result of a longer food chain that is phytoplankton-based, with four trophic levels involved,
- Methylmercury concentrations in water are generally low,
- Methylmercury appears in pulses - may be related to natural wet/dry cycles,
- Methylmercury present naturally in local rivers.

Some key issues were outlined for PJV to look into if further studies are required.

The following studies were recommended:

- Laboratory studies should be conducted to examine the extent to which mine-derived mercury is converted to methylmercury in waters and sediments downstream of the mine.
- Future field studies should concentrate on the south end of Lake Murray - the inverse delta.
- Processes occurring within the footprint of riverine sediment deposition should be investigated.
- The mechanism of methylmercury formation in Lake Murray should be elucidated.

AM Tuesday 10 October, the Komiti was taken to tour the open pit and part of the rehabilitation area, shown women's projects and later had a general briefing by the Community Affairs Department. Meeting commenced after lunch.

### Agenda Item 4.1.3

#### Metal Uptake

Stuart Jones of NSR and Matthew Kawei of PJV carried out the brief.

The brief summary was presented basically about how fish, prawns and other organisms in Lake Murray and Lagaip River could take up metals. It talked about bioaccumulation, a process by which organisms take up trace metals from their surrounding environment, and biomagnification, a process of increase in trace metal concentrations with trophic level. External laboratories were used to analyse fish tissues and parts of prawns.

The results for the Lagaip River at Wankipe were as follows;

- Tendency for metal concentrations in prawn heads to be higher in recent years,
- Trend to be consistent for Cd for both prawn tail and mountain tandan flesh over time,
- Cd & Pb over ANZFA (1996) in head,
- Cd over ANZFA (1996) in tail.

The results for Lake Murray are as follows;

- Trend not consistent for elevated trace metals for both barramundi and herrings,
- Cd concentrations elevated over ANZFA (1996) in barramundi flesh (2000),
- Hg concentrations elevated over ANZFA (1996) in barramundi flesh.

The study also concluded that metal concentrations from mine derived sediments are low.

#### Agenda Item 4.2

##### Operational Performance

Evert van den Brand, Managing Director, Placer Niugini Limited, briefed the Komiti on Porgera's operational performance. Among some of things discussed were production level, price of gold, cost per ounce of gold, the status of Yakabari dump, Paiam town and the law and order situation in the region.

#### Agenda Item 4.3

##### Briefings as Required

##### Agenda Item 4.3.1

##### World Alliance Health Projects

Dr. Jethro Usurup made the brief and brought the Komiti up to date on the rationale of the alliance and the status of projects. The aim of the program is to create collaboration between the stakeholders, capacity building and health promotion. The idea is to help people to make better decisions about health, available resources and using the knowledge to improve status of community health. The program will target such diseases as Malaria, filariasis and other common tropical diseases. Community participation is an essential part of this program that must be sustainable in the long term. (Note : for further information on the World Alliance please visit <http://www.wacommunityhealth.org/>).

### Agenda Item 4.3.2

#### PNG Draft Policy on Mine Closure

Ani Topurua of Department of Mining briefed the Komiti on the draft policy and talked about the reasons for such a policy, why it is important and how it is being developed. All stakeholders see the development of the policy as being based on a strong consultative process. The government wants to encourage the involvement of the mining industry in the development of the policy.

### Agenda Item 4.3.3

#### Dietary Survey - Tomu and Wankipe

Dr. Peter Sapak not being able to attend the meeting, this agenda was deferred for the next meeting.

### Agenda Item 4.3.4

#### Sago Data Analysis

Michael Kiap discussed the data analysis of sago samples taken from Lake Murray and the Lower Strickland River. Most analytical results in the processed sago were below analytical detection limit. The PEAK Technical Komiti agreed that no further action is required.

## *Agenda 5*

### Community Consultation

#### Agenda Item 5.1.1

#### Independent Study on Water Quality

The presenter, Pawa Limu, not being available, this item was deferred for next meeting.

#### Agenda Item 5.1.2

#### Health Patrol in Upper Strickland

Gerard Saleu made the presentation on the patrol. The main purpose was to supervise the distribution of drugs and collection of specimen. Tropical diseases such as malaria, ulcers, respiratory conditions, skin conditions etc are still prevalent. Health services are very limited and there is a serious lack of

government presence. Isolation from main centres of government services has had severe impact on the health conditions.

There is a high expectation on PJV to supply health services and repair water tanks previously provided by the PJV. The Komiti talked about sustainability of community and why it would be a big mistake if the community is not self-reliant and waits upon PJV to provide all services.

### Agenda 6

Recommendations to PJV

Refer to the Action Items.

### Agenda 7

PEAK Reporting

#### Agenda Item 7.1

##### PEAK External Reporting Protocol

The issue of external reporting was discussed due to media exposure in the recent times. Media misrepresentation of a paper presented by a member of PEAK at the PNG Medical Symposium, led to allegations that the so called "mystery deaths" were a result toxic waste from the Porgera mine. One of the groups that made the allegations was The Nature Conservancy, headed by Mr. Wep Kanawi.

In view of the controversy that was created, the Komiti confirmed that in future, as per PEAK's terms of reference, and only in matters relating to PEAK, the Chairperson would make statements on behalf of the Komiti or his approval be obtained if an another member is to make any statement on behalf of the Komiti.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Dr. Jethro Usurup and Gerard Saleu will meet with Mr. Wep Kanawi and explain the situation surrounding the deaths that occurred 8 to 10 years ago. (Y Bun/J Usurup/G Saleu to action)

#### Agenda Item 7.2

Annual Report

A draft of the Annual Report shall be presented at the next meeting. (M Togolo to action)

## Agenda 8

### Administrative Issues

There were no administrative issues to discuss.

## Agenda 9

### Other Business

#### *Format of Meeting*

The Komiti discussed the format of future meetings but agreed that the format and the agenda should remain as they are now.

#### *Visioning PEAK's Future*

The Komiti agreed to carry out a visioning process and come up with a vision statement for PEAK and what its future role should be. This should take place at the next meeting (E van den Brand/Y Bun/M Togolo to action).

#### *Appreciation*

The Chairman wanted the Komiti's appreciation of the contributions made by the following to be noted and recorded: -

Evert van den Brand

Ani Topurua

Matthew Kawei