

## ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING OF 2 & 3 NOVEMBER 1998

### Role and function of PEAK

Michael Rae to write one page on the role and function of PEAK for general distribution.

### PEAK Annual Report

The annual report sub committee discussed the content for the annual report. It was agreed the report would include:

- Site visits
- Issues discussed / actioned
- Illegal gold panning in tailings
- Mercury in fish
- Changes to monitoring at SG2
- Future plans

Michael Rae's summary on the role and function of PEAK could also be included in the report.

*Michael Rae and Meg Taylor to write the 1998 PEAK annual report.*

### ICRAF representation on PEAK

ICRAF has advised they no longer wish Powes Parkop to represent them on PEAK. The new representative is likely to be Patrick Harriman, the current chairman of ICRAF.

*Meg Taylor to follow up.*

### Professional Staff Exchange

Dr Bob Pidgeon of ERISS visited Porgera for one week in September 1998. The visit was very beneficial and gave Dr Pidgeon a deeper insight into the issues facing the mine. During his stay Dr Pidgeon evaluated environmental field monitoring and laboratory procedures and visited Lake Murray. He gained an insight into the complexity of the operation, the logistical and technical challenges, and the high costs associated with program activities.

### Progress on CSIRO recommendations

The Komiti had previously requested that the [CSIRO](#) recommendations be formatted as a matrix to more readily assess PJV's progress in implementing the recommendations. Hugh Wilson tabled a matrix, which the Komiti agreed

was far more useful. Several suggestions were made to further improve the format.

*Hugh Wilson to revise and circulate the matrix before the next meeting.*

Mr Wilson raised the issue of 'sign-off' by the Komiti when a recommendation had been completed. There was some discussion on how this could be achieved but no consensus was reached. The Komiti pointed out that many of the recommendations required continual action and it would not be appropriate to sign off on these issues.

### **Scoping study review**

The review assessed the potential for ARD generation from the Porgera waste dumps.

Hugh Wilson advised the Komiti a draft of the review report was completed in July and was being reviewed by the various mine departments. Following this, the report will be finalised and presented to PEAK in the New Year. The key issues arising from the review were the investigation of two dumping strategies, possibilities of metal leaching and elevated metals, and management controls to reduce risks.

*Hugh Wilson to present report in the first half of 1999.*

### **Siltation of Lake Murray**

Some local communities are concerned that Lake Murray is becoming more shallow (silting up) as a result of PJV's operations. It was proposed that independent sampling of lake sediment be carried out to determine whether siltation is in fact occurring. The local communities did not want or trust PJV or PEAK to carry out the work. DEC and Dr Wolf were proposed as being independents that could undertake the work.

*Evert van den Brand to initially discuss the project with Dr Wolf but keep at arm's length and PJV would have no involvement in managing the project.*

### **PJV staff to communicate the results of environmental reports to Lake Murray and Nomad people**

Commencing in 1999 PJV Environmental and Community Relations staff will communicate quarterly, half-yearly and annual environmental results to Lake Murray and Nomad people.

Appropriate training will be provided to enable Community Relations officers to discuss the results in a manner appropriate to the local audience. The

presentations will be timed to coincide with other work programs where possible.

### **Coring program**

The Komiti had previously requested that a version of the report on the Coring program be written in a simpler language for lay people. The Coring program was undertaken to determine how much mine sediment was being deposited in the flood plain and the potential for metal contamination. Hugh Wilson advised that the report had been re-written and was being reviewed by Joe Mifsud.

*Hugh Wilson to distribute the revised report before the next meeting*

### **Screening Level Risk Assessment (Parametrix report)**

Hugh Wilson briefed the Komiti on how the recommendations from the SLRA study are being addressed. The recommendations cover many aspects of the operation and are being reviewed in detail by several PJV personnel before formulating an Action Plan. Strategies were being developed for several of the recommendations such as assessing the monitoring program and the activities of illegal miners in the tailings discharge.

*Hugh Wilson to present more details of proposed actions in the second quarter of 1999.*

### **Independent medical investigations**

The Komiti had previously recommended that a protocol be developed to investigate illnesses / unusual deaths of people living along the Strickland. Dr Michael Hohnen had been asked to advise on this matter and Gerard Saleu was awaiting a response.

*Evert van den Brand invited Mr Saleu to visit site to discuss further.*

### **Operational performance**

Evert van den Brand briefed the Komiti on the mine's operational performance over the past quarter.

He also discussed the research being undertaken to reduce / eliminate CIP tails through the formation of a paste and subsequent storage in stable dumps. Even though it was early days work to date indicated the process was possible in principle. If successful the process was capable of reducing metal content of the discharge to the river system by 80% and also removing the red colour from the discharge. Mr van den Brand acknowledged this was a priority project and the testing is continuing at pace.

Mr van den Brand also outlined the dump strategies being developed with regard for social, economic, agricultural and closure issues. He indicated it was possible relocation of some villagers may be required in the future.

He also discussed assistance provided by the PJV during the Aitape disaster, assistance in Yaws patrols and WHO involvement in a Lake Murray pilot project.

#### **Compensation claim – Lake Murray and Strickland Landowners Association**

The Association has written to The Minister for Mineral Resources demanding compensation for environmental damage caused by the mine in the Lower Strickland / Lake Murray region.

Mel Togolo of Placer Niugini had also met with representatives of the Association in Port Moresby. The Association have also written to PEAK outlining their claims.

*Meg Taylor to reply to their letter outlining the function of PEAK and offering to assist in dialogue between the Association and the PJV.*

#### **Next meeting dates**

It was agreed that commencing in 1999 PEAK would meet twice a year. The next meeting dates were tentatively set for:

During the week April 12–16 in Port Moresby

During the week October 11-15 at Porgera