COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
23 October 2019

Sepik Development Project statutory engagement campaign

PanAust Limited (PanAust) subsidiary Frieda River Limited (FRL) is pleased to announce that the Sepik Development Project Conservation & Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) statutory engagement campaign commenced in Vanimo today.

Over the course of the 10-week campaign, the FRL Community Affairs team will join CEPA and Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) representatives to consult with communities along the Project’s proposed Vanimo to Frieda River proposed road corridor and the Sepik River. The campaign will be split between the road corridor (October to November 2019) and the Sepik River (February to March 2020). In November 2019 there will also be consultation conducted in the main regional centres.

The campaign follows the commencement of CEPA’s independent peer review of the Project’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and dam integrity assessment in September. Independent consultants, Hydrobiology and Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC) have been commissioned by CEPA to complete the reviews.

Also in September, the Company published the Project’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Frieda River website – www.friedariver.com to coincide with the campaign. The website also hosts fly through videos, factsheets and other Project-specific information.

The Sepik Development Project Director, Scott Cowie spoke about the importance of this campaign and the Company’s history of engagement with communities in PNG.

“CEPA’s engagement forums will promote open and inclusive discussions between CEPA, MRA and Company representatives and facilitate honest, two-way conversations with communities along the Project’s logistics corridor and the Sepik River. We encourage communities and stakeholders of the Project to participate in an open and respectful way in the forums to ensure open dialogue without any threat to safety and security.

“This engagement campaign is the third campaign the Company has been involved in since 2015. In 2018, the engagement included more than 7,000 people from approximately 97 villages along the Sepik River and the infrastructure corridor. The campaign was conducted in conjunction with environmental consultants’ Coffey, CEPA, MRA and West and East Sepik provincial Governments and district and local-level authorities.
“Feedback and community input from these engagement activities has informed Project designs and decision-making processes,” Mr Cowie said.

“PanAust’s engagement processes enable community participation and respect for traditional methods of decision-making. PanAust’s engagement processes provide a template for how FRL will operate in PNG,” Mr Cowie added.

“The Company is committed to working with the Government of PNG to deliver the Sepik Development Project’s world-class hydroelectric operation, copper-gold mine and supporting infrastructure that will make a significant contribution to PNG’s long-term growth and prosperity,” Mr Cowie concluded.

For further information contact

Mr Kate Horan
T +61 7 3117 2089
E kate.horan@panaust.com.au