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P.O. Box 552 | Alotau | MBP | PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ALOTAU ENVIRONMENT

Mining in Milne Bay

Global Financial Crisis 2019 is still affecting mining industry; there is no money available for borrowing for mine development. The only new activities are by very big companies who have the ability to self-finance: "front-ending".

The price of gold is down. This is because of the manipulation of the gold-price in London by speculators using "paper-gold" rights. Because of this gambling on gold-prices, by speculators, gold mining is high-risk. Probably better to do small-scale, but avoid mercury, because it causes deformed babies. Sell the bullion.

The big issues facing Milne Bay landowners with mining are political.

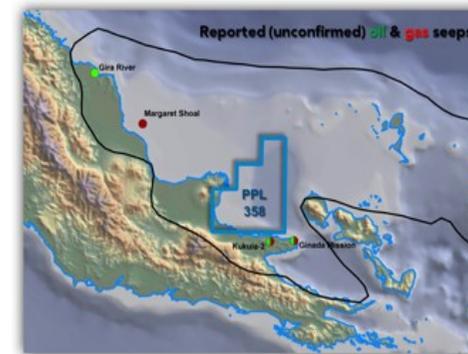
We do not have pro-environment, pro-sea, pro-people policies. Policies are in favour of mining companies, some rich Milne Bayans and mining profits.

Current mining policy is PPP lead, and pro-mining.

Landowners, LLGs and provincial government get very little. Development, and particularly social development, around the mines elsewhere is generally very poor. Landowners living badly. The policy is aimed at greasing LOs, and then not delivering promises. The company will always say "its not us its the government"...and the government always says "no money"

...don't say we did not warn you.

Gas in Milne Bay : there is most likely a gas reservoir on the North Coast of mainland Milne Bay, extending into the sea around Goodenough, Cape Vogel, down the coast almost to East Cape, and including Trobriand Islands. There has been insufficient exploration so far to say whether the reserve is commercial.



South Pacific Resources LTD (Aust.) Exploration License PPL358 Cape Vogel

Marine Park needed: Milne Bay seas, in particular its archipelagic seas, must be protected fully by a strong marine park to guarantee communities food security and the environment:

- no deep sea bed mining
- no mine waste dumping
- no international transiting through the reefs by ocean-going vessels: Jomard, Kitava; accidents waiting to happen; make them use deep-sea routes

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No environmental regulation. There is no environmental regulation in Milne Bay.

Mining regulation is chaotic, controlled from Moresby; no transparency. Mining Wardens part of government, with links to mining companies; no real independence, and not part of the judiciary.

Logging still dominates politics: there are major problems with governance because of bad forest policy and management within the Milne Bay Provincial Forest Management Committee. It is not just bad logging practices; there are now uncontrolled and unregulated carbon-sequestration schemes (carbon-sinks) in Milne Bay...these appear to be supported by some politicians. Bad practices in logging sets the policy for mining...government is badly managed and high-risk for land-owners.

Woodlark Island The Woodlark Island mine does not appear to have sufficient capital to develop the mine. Right now, nothing is happening.

- Government land leases have not been returned to the landowners as promised by politicians
- No construction activity
- fully permitted to dump its waste into the sea
- 2014 October public meeting advisory meeting by Kula Gold did not take place
- 2014 owners loaned about \$A3 million of their own money to keep its assets in mothballs
- low gold prices have forced owners to try to raise more capital

for expansion of exploration tenements

- the mine has been licensed to dump its waste into the sea, with general direction of ocean currents going towards the Esa'ala Open, Alotau Open, and Kiriwina-Goodenough electorates

Normanby-Duau

Exploration : Moth-balled

Normanby mining, part of New Guinea Gold, pulled out of Milne Bay last year, and sold its equipment off. New Guinea Gold:

- owned the Sinivit mine in East New Britain. The company left the mine. There is a major pollution threat from the chemical waste left behind.
- Owned the Gold Ridge mine on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. The company left the mine. There is a major pollution threat from the chemical waste left behind.

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