

# Nai Rogo Mai



*EIA Team at training workshop - NJV, IAS (USP), Fiji Museum and Coffey*

## NJV recommences Waisoi Project EIA process

The Namosi Joint Venture (NJV) has recommenced the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process for its Waisoi Project.

The process will address the updated Waisoi Project description which reflects changes to key components of the Project, following further studies and the results of initial and ongoing community consultation. These include:

- Provision for a co-disposal storage facility
- Change to the proposed location of the site camp
- Provision for haulage via Namosi Road instead of Waidina Road
- Provision for a Bulk Handling Facility on the coast (rather than using the Port of Suva for such purposes)

The Waisoi Project EIA process first commenced in 2011. In the intervening period, following completion of the Government, Landowner and NJV rehabilitation action plan, NJV has since undertaken additional exploration activity and continued various studies to better understand the existing environmental, social and cultural heritage baseline conditions in the project area.

NJV has also continued to regularly update communities within the project area of the status of the project and the proposed changes.

Extensive community consultation was also undertaken as part of the renewal of SPL 1420 which was completed in

August 2015. The SPL 1420 renewal process involved a thorough verification process by the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.

As required under the Fiji Environmental Management Act, NJV has now engaged Coffey Environments (Coffey) consultants in partnership with the University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science to complete the EIA.

The next phase of the Waisoi Project EIA will involve:

- Collection of additional baseline information including soils, groundwater, freshwater and marine surveys, cultural heritage, traffic, land use, macro economic and social, economic and demographic baseline data;
- EIA awareness training;
- Additional community consultation;
- Preparation and submission of the EIA to the Department of Environment and further consultation.

When finalised, the Waisoi Project EIA will be made available to all interested parties.

No mining is currently taking place. Mining will not commence at Waisoi unless the Fijian Government approves a mine to be built and issues a mining lease. The NJV will then decide if the Waisoi mine can be developed and operated economically and at an appropriate environmental, social and safety standard.

# From the Country Manager

by NJV Country Manager, Greg Morris

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Obviously TC, Winston had a devastating impact on some areas of Fiji and our condolences go out to those affected. Our exploration area suffered some damage but thankfully not as significant as other parts of Fiji. NJV provided some immediate assistance and we will continue to look at how we support recovery efforts particularly in our local area.

As those who have worked for NJV in the past will know the health and safety of our employees is our first priority. A recent initiative by NJV is our Newsafe Leadership program. Our workforce identified Newsafe opinion leaders and they have developed four important Newsafe behaviours to which we are all committed to upholding;

1. Do it Right
2. Talk it Over
3. Watch Out
4. Speak up to change the culture

I thank our opinion leaders for developing these behaviours and to our employees for committing to them. Your safety and health does not stop when you leave work and I

encourage you all to think about what you do and practice safe behaviours at home and when you go about your daily activities.

As outlined on page 1 of the Newsletter the Waisoi Project EIA studies have recommenced and many of you have already participated in the baseline study surveys and I thank you for your co-operation to date.

The EIA once completed is a very important document. It will describe what the existing natural and social environments are like, describe the Waisoi Project and how it will change the environment, affect local communities and people as well as the provincial and national economies. It will also describe what controls NJV will put in place to manage any potential negative impacts. It will also identify opportunities that the project can provide to you and your communities and Fiji in general.

I want to encourage you all to let NJV know what your thoughts are on the project, what worries you, what things you would like to know about and what things you would like NJV to do. The EIA consultation process will provide you with the opportunity to do this. NJV through its Community



Liaison Officers will also be listening to you. The issues you raise and our responses will form part of the EIA which will be made available to the public and all interested parties.

The EIA and its outcomes are one of the key factors in NJV deciding whether or not to proceed with the project. We have stated on many occasions that NJV will be very thorough in considering its decision to develop the Waisoi Project and that any proposed mine will only be developed if it can be operated economically and with the appropriate safety, environmental and social standards.

## Namosi Catholic Church ginger plantation

NJV assisted the Namosi Catholic Parish establishing its ginger project by meeting the cost of ginger seedlings worth more than \$1,000. The church harvested 53 sacks (50kg bags) of ginger in its first harvest and is looking forward to improving yield in the next season.

Members of St Peter's Parish came together to harvest 53 ginger sacks from the ginger farm. Funds raised from the ginger sales will be put into a separate account to build the new church hall.





## Community Liaison Team resumes village visits

The NJV Community Liaison team restarted their village visits within the Namosi Province and Waidina district on 29 March 2016. These visits were made possible after consultations with the Namosi and Naitasiri Provincial Offices. The team was well received by the villages and the schedule for the Waisoi Project EIA study visits which were to follow was discussed and mapped out with the local communities. The communities were briefed on the progress of the project, the proposed changes to the project description and the EIA that are to be carried out. Even though cyclone Winston deferred



Wainimakutu Village consultation

the visits initially scheduled for February, the warm reception by the villages was overwhelming and

is a positive sign for the continuous building of trust and partnership.

## NJV contribution for TC Winston recovery

The NJV assisted in Fiji's recovery following the destruction and devastation caused by TC Winston in March.

NJV began their planning and relief activities in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, in support of the great effort undertaken by government, aid agencies, companies and the people of Fiji to rebuild the country.

"NJV mobilised resources and our dedicated staff were out in the field in our affected communities as soon as we could," said NJV Country Manager Mr Greg Morris.

"This is part of our on-going commitment to community support," Mr Morris said.

NJV's support included a donation of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to St John Ambulance – which were sent straight out to medical clinics in affected areas, as well as a donation of \$5,000 to the Fiji Red Cross Society for relief efforts.



Naitavuni Primary School clean-up team

"NJV personnel also helped local villagers at Delailasakau and Nasevou in Tikina Waidina, Naitasiri clean up demolished classrooms at the local primary school, and will be allocating further assistance to the affected schools," Mr Morris said.

In this regard NJV has supplied 80

basic school supply kits (exercise books, pens, pencils) worth \$900 to affected students in the area.

Mr Morris said the rebuilding will be an on-going process and NJV will continue to make assessments and contribute to areas where they can make the most impact.

## Contribution for Veivatuloa Primary School

NJV in response to a request by the Head Teacher and Management of Veivatuloa Primary school, supplied building materials costing over \$4,000 to complete the school's dining hall. The building is used for dining in school hours and for studying in the evenings. The project was a joint effort by the parents of the school, NJV and Ratu Romanu Matanitobua who supplied gravel from his gravel business.



Year 7 & 8 students of Veivatuloa Primary School with their head teacher in the newly renovated dining hall

## Wainabama Dalo Project

The exploration access track in Wainabama is now being fully utilised by Mataqali Nabukebuke for their Dalo Project. The Turaga ni Mataqali, Daniele Vakatawabai is leading the project and has now planted 9,000 tausala tops, with plans to plant a total of 15,000. NJV provided an excavator to clear the

land for farming. "My aim is to start with dalo and once established, we will look at fish or prawn farms," said Mr Vakatawabai. "We will approach government for assistance for an intergrated project," he added.

The members of Mataqali Nabukebuke Namosi will benefit from the project.



Dalo Project - Nabukebuke

## Dining Hall table for Namosi school

Namosi Catholic School sent NJV a letter of appreciation in May thanking the company for its contribution of \$2,000 towards the school dining hall table.

"This will go a long way in ensuring that our students are comfortable, safe and well catered for during lunch," said School Head Teacher Antonio Tupua.

"A big Vinaka Vakalevu from the school management, parents, teachers and students."

"Thank you very much and may your company continue to strive forward and achieve your goals."

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