

Bougainville Copper Limited – the Company

Bougainville Copper Limited operates a large open pit mine and processing facility at Panguna on Bougainville Island in the North Solomons Province of Papua New Guinea. It produces copper concentrate containing significant quantities of gold and silver. The concentrate is sold primarily under long term contracts to smelters in Asia and Europe.

During 1988 the Company mined 89.8 million tonnes of material. Of this, 47.7 million tonnes of ore were treated to produce 552 012 tonnes of concentrate. This concentrate contained 165 957 tonnes of copper, 13 862 kilograms of gold and 48 414 kilograms of silver. Concentrate sales of 570 783 tonnes had a gross sales value of K561.0 million (of which copper and gold contributed 68% and 30% respectively).

The mine commenced commercial production in 1972 and since inception has produced concentrate containing 3.0 million tonnes of copper, 299 tonnes of gold and 763 tonnes of silver. The production had a value of K4.9 billion which represents approximately 45% of the country's exports over that period. During this time contributions to the Government in the form of dividends, taxes and royalties totalled K997 million which represent approximately 17% of internally generated Papua New Guinea Government revenue. Further, the Company's presence in the North Solomons Province has promoted the development of significant local business enterprises to provide goods and services required for the mining operations and for the residents of the Province.

The Company is a major employer in the country employing 3 560 persons of whom 2 950 are Papua New Guinea citizens.

Company training programs have resulted in considerable progress in the localisation of the Company's employees and have also added significantly to the number of skilled workers in the country's workforce.

Bougainville Copper Limited is owned 53.6% by CRA Limited. The Papua New Guinea Government owns 19.1% while the remaining 27.3% of the share capital is held by public shareholders.

Theme of the 1988 Report

Bougainville Copper has been the major corporate contributor to PNG revenue. The theme chosen for this year's Report is the impact of the Company on the Economy of Papua New Guinea.

Directors

D. S. Carruthers (Chairman)
G. Billard
R. J. Cornelius
W. J. N. Davis
P. G. F. Henderson, A.C.
R. B. Moaina
J. T. Ralph, A.O.
D. C. Vernon

Officers

R. J. Cornelius
(Managing Director)
J. L. Auna
(General Manager – Personnel Services)
C. S. Evanson
(General Manager – Business Analysis)
I. Garside
(General Manager – Technical Services)
S. J. Jopling
(General Manager – Support Services)
K. R. Perry
(General Manager – Commercial)
L. K. Tan
(General Manager – Mine)
C. G. Thorne
(General Manager – Concentrator)
G. W. Ewing
(Secretary)

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