

Panguna Mine Action: Decision of Justice Anis, 26 September 2025, and Appeal to the Supreme Court

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 20 November 2025:

In June 2025, Justice Anis of the National Court of Papua New Guinea heard applications filed by Rio Tinto and BCL seeking to dismiss the proceedings commenced by the lead claimant, Martin Miriori, on his own behalf and on behalf of more than 7,200 claimants.

Justice Anis delivered judgment in relation to Rio Tinto's and BCL's applications on 26 September 2025. His Honour dismissed the proceedings. In reaching this decision, Justice Anis made certain technical findings concerning the manner in which the proceedings had been commenced. His Honour did not rule on the merits of the claims.

On 3 November 2025, Mr Miriori, with funding from PMA, filed an appeal in the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea seeking to overturn the judgment of Justice Anis.

If the appeal is successful, Mr Miriori will be permitted to continue the proceedings against Rio Tinto and BCL in the National Court.

Officers of PMA will travel through the river valley to distribute this notice.

Further updates will be provided as they become available.

ENDS.

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Notes to Editors

1. Details of the claim and associated materials including images and videos of the affected lands and peoples can be found at: <https://www.pangunamineaction.com>
2. Solicitors for the lead claimant and class members are Goodwin Bidar Nutley Lawyers, of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and Morris Mennilli, of Sydney, Australia.
3. Bougainville Copper Limited (as it is now known) ("BCL") operated the Panguna Copper Mine ("Panguna Mine") between 1971 and 1989, during which period Rio Tinto was the controlling shareholder in BCL. Operations at the Panguna Mine saw the disposal of tailings and other waste products often directly into the Jaba-Kawerong river system and associated valleys, at huge scale for many years. During production, approximately 90,000 to 120,000 tonnes of waste rock and approximately 80,000 to 140,000 tonnes of tailings were produced by the Panguna Mine each day.
4. Panguna Mine, Google Maps ref: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/QECkPeHj1byYgcCb8>