

Taruga Secures Landowner MOU, Unlocking Exploration at 4.8km Long Undrilled Copper-Gold Porphyry Target Kol Mountain Project, East New Britain, PNG

Highlights

- Taruga's 100%-optioned PNG subsidiary, Frontrunner Exploration PNG Limited (Frontrunner) has secured a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Makolkol Land Group Inc.**, the recognised customary landowner group of the northern portion of granted EL 2513, within the **Kol Mountain Project**.
- The agreement formally records **Makolkol support for mineral exploration and potential future mining** on their land.
- Taruga's field team and Makolkol contractors are currently on-ground at the **Agadul (Bukuam) copper-gold porphyry target**, and the **Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone high-grade gold outcrop**, the Company's first active field program at Kol Mountain.
- The Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry target is a **4.8km long copper-gold soil anomaly** that has never been drill tested, offering genuine first-mover discovery potential at an advanced, historically validated system.
- CRA (Rio Tinto) sampling at the Agadul (Kapea) Shear zone returned rock chip grades up to **63.5 g/t Au**, with trench highlights including **55m @ 3.2g/t Au** (incl. **5m @ 13.1 g/t Au**) and **33.6m @ 2.9 g/t Au** (incl. **8m @ 8.3 g/t Au**).
- Historical exploration at Kol Mountain (123km²) was conducted by BHP, CRA (Rio Tinto) and Frontier Resources/OK Tedi Mining JV, confirming a potential large-scale porphyry and skarn complex with multiple mineralised targets.

Taruga Minerals Limited (ASX: TAR) ('Taruga' or the 'Company') is pleased to announce that its 100%-optioned PNG subsidiary, Frontrunner Exploration PNG Limited (Frontrunner), has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Makolkol Land Group Inc. ('Makolkol Landowners'), the recognised customary landowner group for the northern portion of Exploration Licence EL 2513, Kol Mountain Project, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea (the 'MOU Area').

The MOU formally records the Makolkol Landowners' support for mineral exploration and potential future mining on their land, providing the social licence and land access framework required to advance exploration. With this in place, Taruga has mobilised a field team to commence the Company's first on-ground activities at Kol Mountain targeting high-priority prospects at the Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry, an undrilled 4.8km long copper-gold soil anomaly, and the adjacent Agadul (Kapea) shear zone and skarn system, where previous trenching returned up to **55m @ 3.2 g/t Au**. The project area is prospective for porphyry copper-gold deposits, plus overlying/adjacent epithermal gold and gold-base metal skarns.

Chairman Paul Cronin said:

"Securing the support of the Makolkol Land Group is a significant milestone for our Kol Mountain program. Landowner relationships are fundamental to responsible and sustainable exploration in Papua New Guinea, and this MOU reflects the mutual goodwill and commitment we have built with the Makolkol community over recent months. The Agadul (Bukuam) porphyry is a compelling target that has never seen a drill bit. It sits adjacent to the Agadul (Kapea) Shear zone with historical rock chip grades up to 63.5g/at Au. The convergence of a large-scale porphyry signature with high-grade gold at the shear zone and skarn is exactly the kind of geological setting that warrants systematic exploration. Our team is on the ground now, and we look forward to reporting results as they come in."

MOU Terms

The Makolkol Land Group Inc. is an Incorporated Land Group (ILG) recognised under Papua New Guinea law, whose members are the customary landowners primarily from the Open Bay region of East New Britain Province. The MOU between Taruga's 100%-optioned PNG subsidiary, Frontrunner Exploration PNG Limited (Frontrunner), and the Makolkol Landowner's establishes the framework for collaborative, compliant exploration in the MOU Area.

Key terms of the MOU include:

- **Land Access:** The Company and Landowners commit to engaging in good faith to facilitate the Company's access to the MOU Area for exploration purposes, including access routes, work sites, and any temporary land and water usage.
- **Employment of locals:** The MOU notes the Landowners desire for employment opportunities shared amongst the sub-clans which the Company acknowledges and encourages the selection and training of local workers.
- **Landowner Participation:** The Landowners have expressed a wish to be involved in project activities, kept up to date with exploration progress and for local community members to be engaged as workers on the project.
- **Environmental and Regulatory Compliance:** The Company will conduct all activities in accordance with applicable environmental, safety, and mining laws and regulations in Papua New Guinea.
- **Compensation:** Where exploration activities require the removal of trees or crops of economic value (including fruit trees, cash crops, and garden crops) compensation will be provided in line with valuations gazetted by the PNG Valuer General.



Figure 1 – MOU Signing Ceremony - Makolkol Landowner leadership and Taruga (Frontrunner). Front - Left to Right - Augustine Sade , Peter McNeil (Director – Frontrunner), Paul Siua (Makolkol ILG Chairman), Otto Lowa (Makolkol ILG Vice Chairman). Back - Left to Right - Barth Lakewan , John Bual , Raphael Giul , Eric de Mori (Director – Taruga).

Field Activities Underway

The Kol Mountain Project (EL 2513, 123km²) is a large-scale copper-gold system in East New Britain Province, PNG (Figure 2). Historical exploration by BHP, CRA (Rio Tinto) and Frontier Resources /at Agadul (Bukuam) successfully demonstrated a well-defined porphyry and skarn complex with multiple prospect areas.

With land access now formalised, Taruga's field team has commenced on-ground activities at the Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry and Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone targets within the MOU Area. Immediate activities will include:

- Re-instatement of previous logging access tracks to enable movement of field personnel and equipment.
- Reconnaissance-scale geological mapping and rock-chip sampling to characterise and confirm surface mineralisation and structural controls.
- Re-assessment of historical trench, drill collar and outcrop locations at the Agadul (Kapea) Shear and Skarn Zone to validate prior results and identify extensions and follow-up targets.
- Geochemical stream sediment sampling to assist in defining structural corridors and gold dispersion patterns across the northern area.

The Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry and Agadul (Kapea) Shear and Skarn Zone targets are located approximately 14km north of the Company's high-priority Esis Cu/Au Porphyry Project, demonstrating the district-scale nature of the mineralised system and Taruga's multi-target exploration pipeline. The Southern Geoscience Consultants (SGC) reprocessing and litho-structural interpretation of historical airborne magnetic survey data is well underway and is expected to highlight additional areas of interest within the exploration licence.

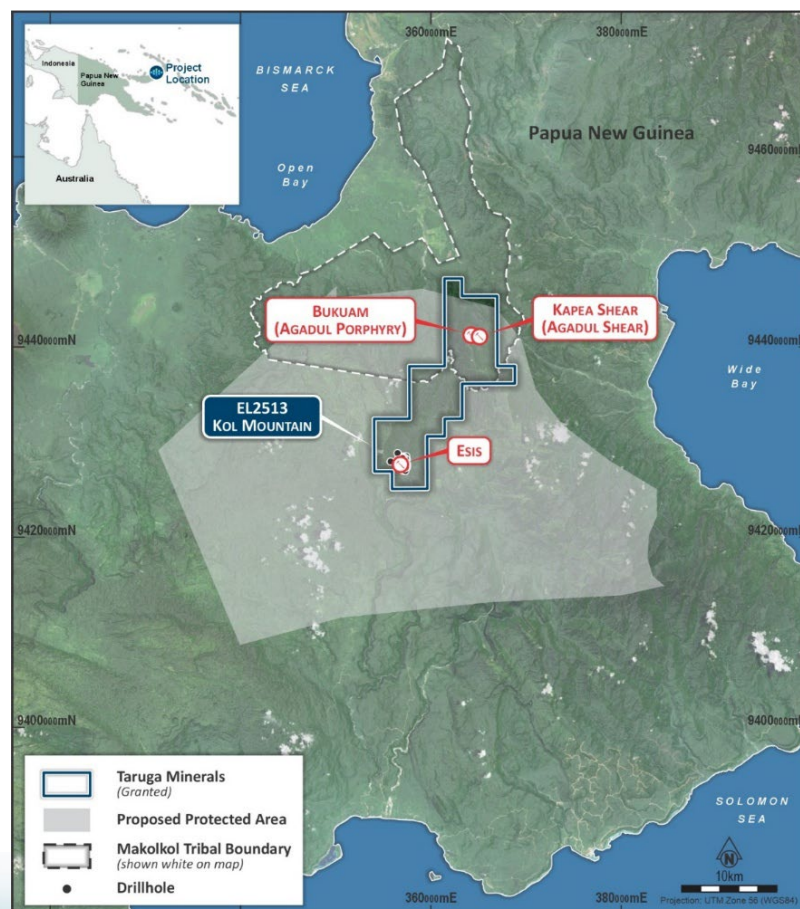


Figure 2 – Kol Mountain location and key prospects highlighted.

Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry Prospect

Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry encompasses an approximate 4.8km long copper soil anomaly in the northern portion of EL 2513. The general area was first subject to reconnaissance rock sampling and soil sampling by CRA (Rio Tinto) in the 1980s, which defined widespread copper anomalism with elevated gold. Importantly, the target porphyry has not been drill tested and represents an immediate opportunity for systematic exploration to test the depth and grade continuity of the prospective porphyry system.

The Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry area also hosts the adjacent Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone and Skarn Prospects. The spatial convergence of the potential large-scale porphyry copper-gold anomaly with the structurally controlled high-grade gold zone at the Agadul (Kapea) Shear and Skarn Zone is a compelling geological setting and a priority target for future drilling.

Agadul (Kapea) Shear and Skarn Zone

Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone has been subject to surface sampling and shallow drilling by CRA (Rio Tinto), returning exceptional high-grade gold in rock chips and trench sampling. Historical results include:

- **63.5g/t Au**, sample 24077
- **25.9g/t Au**, sample 24463
- **21.3 g/t Au**, sample 24411
- **18.2 g/t Au**, sample 24257

Trench/costean continuous channel sampling highlights:

- **60m @ 1.5g/t Au** including interval of **2m @ 21.3g/t Au** and **4m @ 3.7g/t Au** (Costean 1)
- **55m @ 3.2g/t Au** including **5m @ 13.1g/t Au** (Agadul Shear South)
- **33.6 @ 2.9g/t Au** including **8m @ 8.3g/t Au** (Agadul Shear North)

Historical, shallow diamond drilling at Agadul Shear and Skarn Zone by CRA (Rio Tinto) in 1989 returned:

- Hole DD89BU1 - **6m @ 2.2 g/t Au** from 36m
- Hole DD89BU2 - **2m @ 3.5 g/t Au**, from 153m
- Hole DD89BU3 - **10m @ 1.6 g/t Au**, from 60m

Next Steps

- Progress geological mapping and rock chip sampling across the Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry and Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone, with results to be reported progressively.
- Expand on historical trench and outcrop sampling locations at the Agadul (Kapea) Shear Zone to validate and build on prior CRA / Frontier results.
- Complete geochemical stream sediment sampling to define structural corridors and extend the exploration footprint across the northern EL 2513 area.
- Compile results to define and prioritise drill targets across the Agadul (Bukuam) Porphyry and Agadul (Kapea) Shear and Skarn Zone.
- Continue community engagement with the Makolkol Land Group to support ongoing exploration activities.

Further information on the Kol Mountain and Normanby Island option agreement is available in the Company's ASX announcement 'Option to Acquire High-Grade Gold/Copper Portfolio in PNG', 15 December 2025.

This announcement was approved by the Board of Taruga Minerals Limited.

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Competent person's statement

The information in this report that relates to exploration results is based on, and fairly represents information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Brent Laws, a Competent Person who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Laws is the Exploration Manager of Taruga Minerals Limited. Mr Laws has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resource and Ore Reserves". Mr Laws consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which it appears.

The exploration results in this announcement were first reported to ASX on 15/12/25. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

Forward Looking Statements and Important Notice

This report contains forecasts, projections and forward-looking information. Although the Company believes that its expectations, estimates and forecast outcomes are based on reasonable assumptions it can give no assurance that these will be achieved. Expectations and estimates and projections and information provided by the Company are not a guarantee of future performance and involve unknown risks and uncertainties, many of which are out of Taruga's control.

Actual results and developments will almost certainly differ materially from those expressed or implied. Taruga has not audited or investigated the accuracy or completeness of the information, statements and opinions contained in this announcement. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, Taruga makes no representation and can give no assurance, guarantee or warranty, express or implied, as to, and takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for the authenticity, validity, accuracy, suitability or completeness of, or any errors in or omission from, any information, statement or opinion contained in this report and without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, the achievement or accuracy of any forecasts, projections or other forward looking information contained or referred to in this report.

Investors should make and rely upon their own enquiries before deciding to acquire or deal in the Company's securities.