

28<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**PRESS RELEASE – Local Bali Government Voices Strong Support For Peace Park**

Local Government Chiefs have voiced strong support for the Bali Peace Park project at a landmark meeting in Kuta, today. A delegation of Australian and Indonesian Park supporters met Kuta Officials including the Camat, the Lurah, and LPM Kuta. The Balinese said that they wanted a ‘win win solution’ redevelopment of the former Sari Club site, which has lain waste for almost 7 years.

A recent proposal to erect a restaurant/club on the site was also discussed with the Association. Vice Chairman Kevin Paltridge explained the importance of the site selection for the Park as many Balinese and foreigners alike would always consider the ex-Sari Club site sacred and therefore it was the most appropriate place for a museum and park.

The two hour meeting agreed on a 3 month deadline for negotiations. The Association hopes to meet with the Bali Governor and the Bupati as soon as possible.

‘We have received an overwhelming amount of support from within Australia and overseas since the issues that were being faced by our Association were highlighted recently in the media’ says Kevin Paltridge. ‘Today’s meeting with some of Bali’s Community Leaders will also hopefully help clear up misconceptions that this is a project being driven purely from within Australia. The Association has been assured that there is immense Bali Community support from the grassroots right up to the Government for the Peace Park Project’.

It is also now more crucial than ever that the Australian Government assist the Association by granting Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, allowing for all donations over the amount of \$2 to become a tax deduction. This is especially important for the corporate sector where it is often a main criterion for Companies when selecting which charities can receive their support.

‘The Association has been advised that their application is currently before Treasurer Wayne Swan and we are confident of receiving the Federal Government’s full support and backing of The Bali Peace Park’ says Paltridge. ‘We understand that this

application needs special consideration as it does not fit within the normal parameters of DGR status, however, time is now of the essence as we make significant inroads in working towards to the development of the Peace Park’.

Vice Chairman Kevin Paltridge will be available for media comment with the new plans at the former Sari site at 9am Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

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