Steamships Corporate Update

In relation to the global pandemic COVID-19, an official release from the Office of Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency in Papua New Guinea on Sunday 22nd March 2020. This declaration was made with seventeen other decisions involving restricted movement into the country and between provinces, and notice to organisations to review work practices and release non-essential staff for 14 days starting on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

Managing Director of Steamships, Michael Scantlebury shared, 'Our responsibility to provide critical services to the people of PNG through our shipping, logistics and property businesses is most important at this time.'

To date Steamships and its businesses, Consort Express Lines, Pacific Towing, Joint Venture Port Services, East West Transport, Coral Sea Hotels and Pacific Palms Property, have established a Coordinated Response Team and various work stream taskforces to see the business and its valued employees through this 14 day SOE period. Leading at the forefront, our General Managers have begun implementing plans including suspension of non-core operational activities, the release of employees on paid leave and introduction of rotational and remote working arrangements for essential staff.

The SOE will have an adverse impact on the results of Steamships Trading Company Limited, but it is too early to estimate the magnitude as we have not experienced such an environment before and, ultimately, this will depend on the overall economic impact to PNG of COVID-19 and the speed and nature of the recovery.

Mr. Scantlebury added, 'We intend to continue serving as much as we possibly can, adopting a conservative approach. We will continue to monitor all credible sources including World Health Organisation updates and that of the Office of Prime Minister and his government authorities; to ensure our work continues whilst also protecting the lives of our employees and their families who will remain on duty'.