

For Release: 6 September 2012

#### FINDERS RESOURCES LIMITED

# **Permitting Update**

Finders Resources Limited (ASX: FND) ("Finders") announces that it has received a number of additional permits in relation to the Wetar Copper Project, including a further exploration stage forestry permit ("pinjam pakai") for the Kali Kuning and Meron deposit locations, from the Ministry of Forestry and the final building permits from local government for the main Wetar plant and the neutralisation plant.

Members of the Forestry Department are currently completing surveys on site with view to accelerating the issue of the production stage "pinjam pakai" for the project area and Finders is targeting issue of the In-principal Permit ("Izin Prinsip") in Q4 2012. Thereafter, the "pinjam pakai" is awarded once compensation payments are made to Forestry. Preliminary estimates indicate the compensation for trees in the project area is less than \$20,000.

Parallel to Finders' efforts, the final gazetting of the Government sponsored new Maluku spatial plan is still pending release of maps for signing by Provincial authorities. The spatial plan affects multiple parties in the Province, including a number of plantation companies and government infrastructure projects in addition to the release of land from forestry classification at Wetar, resulting in much slower progress than anticipated by the local government.

Success in either of these two independent routes will enable the development of the Wetar project to commence.

Finders' Managing Director, Chris Farmer said "These permits continue to demonstrate our ability to work with all levels of government to achieve approvals for permits held by our operating companies for the Wetar Copper Project. The Kali Kuning "pinjam pakai" in particular demonstrates sustained progress in the Forestry Department, assisted by the project being awarded priority status. It also firmly establishes the production "pinjam pakai" permit as a viable alternative route towards the commencement of construction in the event of further delays in the approval of the spatial plan."

-ends-

## **Background Information on Finders**

Finders is the operator of the Wetar Copper Project (95% Interest), and the Ojolali Gold-Silver Project (72% with option), both located in Indonesia. The Wetar Copper Project comprises two high grade deposits, Kali Kuning and Lerokis, which are located within 3km from the coast and suitable for open pit mining. The project benefits from having existing infrastructure in place, particularly a wharf, camp and roads and partially pre-stripped copper ore bodies from a prior gold mining era. From February 2009 to December 2010, Finders successfully operated a 5 tonne per day SX-EW demonstration plant to test copper sulphide leach kinetics, optimise process design and provide data required for project finance. The demonstration plant produced and sold about 2,500 tonnes of LME Grade A copper cathode, all of which was sold at a premium to the LME price and without specification issues. The test heaps are at heights similar to commercial operations worldwide and the SX-EW technology being used is industry standard. SX-EW technology is currently responsible for approximately 22% of the world's copper production. The development of the Wetar Copper Project comprises the brownfields expansion of the existing demonstration plant to 7,000tpa capacity, followed by incorporation of the Whim Creek plant to lift production to 25,000tpa.

# Further information from Finders Resources Ltd, please contact

Russell Fountain Non-Executive Chairman +61 2 8084 1812

Chris Farmer Managing Director <u>info@findersresources.com</u>

James Wentworth Finance Director +61 2 8084 1812

### Media

FD

Stuart Carson +61 403 527 755 Andrew Stokes +61 416 967 038