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Deal opens a new path to explore

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A JOINT-venture arrangement between Coppermoly and the world's largest gold miner, Barrick Gold, has been consummated – clearing the way for the Gold Coast company to pursue other exploration opportunities.

Coppermoly managing director Peter Swiridiuk (pictured) said Barrick had now spent \$20 million on drilling at its three tenements in Papua New Guinea as prescribed in the 2009 farm-in agreement.

This has earned the Canadian giant a 72 per cent stake in each of the three PNG tenements.

"In accordance with the farm-in agreement, a joint venture for the further exploration and evaluation of the tenements will now be formed," Mr Swiridiuk said.

"Coppermoly will retain a 28 per cent interest in the three tenements and its cash contribution up to the completion of a feasibility study will be delayed until the commencement of production.

"When production starts in a few years time, money will be forthcoming."



He said the joint-venture approach with the Simuku, Nakru and Talelumas tenements on PNG's New Britain Island meant Coppermoly was able to undertake other exploration in Queensland and PNG this year.

The company will start drilling for gold and copper west of Gym-

pie by March and hopes to make major progress at the site this year.

"We know there are significant grades of gold there," he said.

"We want to do \$500,000 worth of work to see exactly what and how much.

"We are hoping to advance this project to the feasibility stage this year."

Mr Swiridiuk said if that happened, Coppermoly would be looking for a joint-venture partner for that project as well.

"Both the Queensland and PNG project probably require another year or two of drilling before we can go through the feasibility stage," he said.

Mr Swiridiuk said Coppermoly also had its eyes out for other exploration opportunities in Queensland.