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ASX and MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW HOPE'S SHAREHOLDER RETURNS SUPERIOR TO RESOURCE PACIFIC

NOTE: There will be a media briefing at 2pm AEDT. Dial in details below.

New Hope Corporation (ASX:NHC) Chairman Robert Millner today urged Resource Pacific (RSP) shareholders to accept New Hope's full-scrip takeover offer, saying New Hope had a track record of providing a better return to shareholders.

Mr Millner said since listing, Resource Pacific had failed to deliver returns to its shareholders equivalent to those enjoyed by New Hope shareholders, despite a booming coal industry.

"In the three years prior to the announcement of New Hope's original bid, New Hope has provided total shareholder returns of 120 per cent, while Resource Pacific has provided shareholder returns of 70 per cent¹," he said.

"This takes into account capital growth as well as dividends which New Hope has been paying regularly since listing compared to Resource Pacific which has yet to announce any dividend since listing in 2004."

"With this full-scrip offer, New Hope is enabling RSP shareholders to retain their exposure to the growing coal sector, but with a company that has a proven track record of providing superior returns."

New Hope today lodged its Bidder's Statement with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). The Bidder's Statement will be sent to RSP shareholders in approximately two weeks.

The bid of 0.94 of a New Hope share for every one RSP share is a revised offer made as a response to RSP's \$165 million entitlement offer.

Mr Millner said the offer would allow RSP shareholders to become a part of a larger and more operationally diverse group with a strong balance sheet.

"In the past three years, RSP has had to go to the market on nine separate occasions to raise further capital, which usually led to the dilution of RSP shareholders' investments," he said.

"Resource Pacific has one quality coal asset, but lacks the track record showing that it can turn that coal into money. RSP has had continued difficulties with the longwall development and loading problems at the Port of Newcastle.

"By accepting the New Hope offer, RSP shareholders can continue their exposure to the coal industry, but at the same time reduce their risk exposure from a one-mine strategy to an expanded company with a strong balance sheet and access to port infrastructure, an active exploration program as well as a diverse range of energy projects."

Media Briefing: 2pm AEDT

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¹ Sourced from Bloomberg for the period 29 November 2004 to 25 September 2007.