



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 2 of 2019)

### **DPP SANCTIONS CHARGES AGAINST RESORT DEVELOPER**

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr Christopher Pryde, has sanctioned charges against Freesoul Real Estate Development (Fiji) PTE Ltd under the Environment Management Act 2005.

The charges relate to the failure of Freesoul Real Estate Development (Fiji) PTE Ltd to comply with a Prohibition Notice issued by the Ministry of Waterways and Environment in June last year and to the carrying out of development activity without an approved Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Mr Pryde said, "We have been working closely with the Ministry of Waterways and Environment to finalise certain outstanding issues and are now satisfied there is sufficient evidence to put before the court. We have also been in contact with the police who will be monitoring the situation on Malolo Island whilst the matter proceeds in court. The offending appears to be ongoing and it is likely the company and its directors will face further charges."

Under the Environment Management Act 2005, if convicted, the company and its directors face fines of up to \$750,000 or a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, or both.

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8 February 2019

*The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 117 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is motivated by the principle that it is in the interests of justice that the guilty be brought to justice and the innocent are not wrongly convicted.*

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