

8 February 2009

### **Current Victorian Bushfire Threat**

As of today, the towns of Woods Point and Matlock and the assets of the company are not under direct threat. Most of the serious fires appear to be in the lower alpine areas closer to Melbourne.

Victoria sweltered through its hottest ever-recorded day yesterday and we were in some respects lucky to be underground at the Morning Star mine for much of it. The mercury reached 46 degrees at Woods Point and 48 near Melbourne.

On our way out of Woods Point, near Marysville at Narbethong, a fast moving bushfire across the main road halted our progress to Melbourne around 6pm. The Black Spur between Marysville and Healesville was cut off. Homes appeared to be threatened in that immediate vicinity.

As we took a 120km detour through Alexandra, Yea, Tallarook, Broadford, Kilmore and Craigieburn to skirt the extensive fires, the scale of the fires was obvious with huge plumes of smoke in the sky and roads closed everywhere you looked. The communities of Kinglake and Whittlesea in this area have apparently suffered major losses.

The efforts of the Victorian Police and CFA are to be applauded. Everywhere we went, volunteer crews were racing around trying to save property and protect people. At 7pm as we passed through the area, the temp was still 45 degrees. The conditions were appalling.

We extend our sincere sympathies to people of north-eastern Melbourne and hope that rain can fall soon to stop these fires.

For more information on Morning Star Gold, please visit our website at [www.morningstargold.com.au](http://www.morningstargold.com.au) or contact us at [info@morningstargold.com.au](mailto:info@morningstargold.com.au)

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