



Media Release

International Power Hazelwood

For immediate release

16 February 2010

NEW MORWELL RIVER SECTION OPENS TODAY

International Power Hazelwood (IPRH) has announced the official opening today (**Tuesday 16th February 2010**) of a new 10 kilometre section of the Morwell River south west of Morwell.

International Power Australia's Executive Director, Tony Concannon, will launch the new section of river and embankments after a 38 month construction program.

IPRH Chief Executive Officer, Mr Graeme York, said the opening represented the final important milestone in Hazelwood's West Field Mine Development Program.

"Our Rivers and Roads Relocation Project (RRR) was designed to provide Hazelwood with access to coal reserves that secured fuel supply for the expected life of the power station to 2036 in accordance with the 2005 state government approvals," Mr York said.

"This new section of the Morwell River takes a previously-moved section of river out of an old concrete pipe and into a natural meandering riverine environment. It is one of the most significant river relocation and improvement projects ever undertaken in Victoria."

The river opening is a key milestone of the RRR project – a A\$130 million investment in relocating local infrastructure to allow access to International Power's coal reserves. It comes almost two years after the opening of a new 7.5km section of the Strzelecki Highway and redevelopments of local road networks.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) Chair, Ms Liz Clay, will join Mr Concannon in officially opening the new section of river in front of invited guests by transferring water from the old Morwell River to the new section near the Morwell River Wetlands.

Ms Clay praised International Power's commitment to restoring local river health saying that Gippsland's waterways were "important features of the landscape, providing environmental, social and economic benefit to the region".

"The partnership between International Power Hazelwood and the WGCMA in the planning and design of the Morwell River relocation has ensured the fulfilment of stringent river health and biodiversity requirements for the waterway," Ms Clay said.

Visit our IPRA website for more information on IPRH: www.ipplc.com.au

International Power, Hazelwood is a power generation business combining Hazelwood Power Station and the Hazelwood brown coal Mine. It was privatised in August 1996 and is now owned by a consortium headed by international energy utility, International Power plc, (91.9%) and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (8.1%). International Power's Hazelwood site is located 150 kms east of Melbourne in the Latrobe Valley Victoria Australia

“The new waterway will reinstate conditions for native fish migration and the design will also enhance water flow and quality and the strategic placement of snags and bank vegetation will contribute to a healthy, functioning system.”

Hazelwood CEO Graeme York also commended the efforts of all those involved in the RRR project.

“The expertise and dedication of our major Alliance contractor, RTL, and Hazelwood personnel has helped us deliver this project according to the original schedule,” Mr York said.

“The cooperation and support of WGCMA, DSE, EPA, Latrobe City Council and the local community have also been major factors in completing the project safely and with a fine environmental outcome that we can all be proud of.”

Redevelopment and diversion works on the Morwell River floodplain have taken more than three years and work on creating a natural environment and introducing bio-diversity has been ongoing. Limited water flows have been introduced in recent months culminating in the formal opening today.

The successful completion of the RRR project formally marks the conclusion of the \$350+ million West Field Mine Development Program which commenced back in 1998.

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