

COMMUNITY UPDATE



No 2

Monday, 28 February 2011

GROUND MOVEMENT EVENT

The purpose of this community update is to provide the community with information in relation to our operational response to a land movement event in a non-operational area of Hazelwood mine

International Power is continuing its comprehensive land monitoring program on the northern boundary of Hazelwood mine. An area of this disused section of Hazelwood mine, the Morwell Main Drain and the Princes Freeway was subject to ground movement following heavy rainfall in early February.

The Morwell Main Drain, which runs just inside the mine's northern boundary adjacent to the south side of Morwell township and sections of the Princes Freeway also experienced ground movement after this rainfall and monitoring equipment has been in place to determine the extent of any subsequent land movement.

Consequently the Princes Freeway has been closed by Victoria Police for a minimum period of three months as a precaution and in line with their responsibility for community safety.

Further monitoring and analysis by the Dept of Primary Industries (DPI) and VicRoads revealed some additional minor movement following another significant rain event on 19th and 20th February. As a result, International Power is cooperating on a program of mitigation works with the mine regulator, DPI, to sink relief wells to drain ground water and to conduct additional monitoring in the vicinity of the mine's northern boundary. This work is underway and our intention is to be proactive in relation to the additional monitoring and drainage work required as part of a multi-agency solution to the current circumstances.

The area in question has not been mined for 30 to 40 years and is located some three kilometres from the current operational face in an area previously known as Morwell Open Cut. The freeway runs between the township and the mine and was built in the mid 1980s, well after coal mining activity had finished in this section of the mine.

The land movement has not had any adverse impact on coal excavation or power generation at International Power's Hazelwood power station, nor is any anticipated.

Rest assured that International Power is focused on cooperating with all agencies, the DPI, Victoria Police, VicRoads and Latrobe City Council and we are undertaking our portion of the current work being implemented to ensure a good community outcome.

We are taking this issue very seriously and we have seconded a senior executive manager to liaise with all other agencies to support the technical efforts required to mitigate further ground movement in the area.

Finally, as advised in our first Update, any decision to reopen the Princes Freeway will be made by the appropriate agency based on a full risk assessment on the safety and integrity of the road infrastructure. DPI have provided their Customer Service telephone number - **13 61 86** - for all public enquiries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT NEIL LAWSON ON 0407 842 285