

Media Statements: Waroona Bushfire

Thursday 7 January 2016 to present day

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CURRENT STATEMENT: Monday 11 January 2016 11am

Our sympathies are with all those who have suffered losses in the fire. We will do everything we can to assist employees and the local communities as they recover from this tragic event in the coming weeks and months.

Alcoa owns approximately 80 houses in Yarloop. We are yet to make an assessment of fire damage to these houses and will not do so until authorities deem it safe to enter Yarloop.

Restoration of normal operations at the Wagerup alumina refinery was the focus of work teams over the weekend. Work to stabilise production will continue during the coming days.

There are currently no active fires impacting the plant, however Alcoa fire crews continue to monitor burnt out areas. There have been no injuries to employees or contractors reported as a result of the fire.

Access to the refinery remains restricted. Limited numbers of employees are being bussed to and from the site with the support of local authorities.

The recovery effort at Willowdale mine is focused on ensuring a safe work environment so repairs to power infrastructure can be completed. In addition, work is continuing to establish safe employee access to the site in preparation for mining operations to resume.

Employees with questions about their work instructions should contact their manager or supervisor.

ENDS

UPDATE: Saturday 9 January 2016 10.30am

Crews are working safety to restore normal operations at the Wagerup alumina refinery following interruptions caused as a result of the fire.

Relief crews accessed the refinery last night and shift changeover occurred again this morning. Essential supplies are being transported by road into the refinery.

An initial assessment of the Willowdale mine indicated damage to power supply and non-essential infrastructure. Operations at the mine remain suspended. Crews will be deployed to the site to commence repairs once it is deemed safe.

We are yet to be able to make an assessment of the damage to Alcoa-owned homes in Yarloop.

Our sympathies are with all those who have suffered losses in the fire. Alcoa is committed to working with local communities to assist in relief efforts during the coming weeks and months.

ENDS

UPDATE: Friday 8 January 2016 4.15pm

Alcoa thanks the many firefighters and community volunteers working tirelessly to defend lives and property against the bushfire burning in the South West.

Our sympathies are with all those who have suffered losses in the fire, particularly those which suffered catastrophic damage last night. Alcoa is committed to working with local communities to assist in relief efforts during the coming weeks and months.

Fire crews continue to extinguish spot fires on the perimeter of the Wagerup alumina refinery and an assessment of damage is being conducted. Relief crews were able to access the refinery this morning and it is hoped further shift changeovers can occur.

Operations at the Willowdale mine remain suspended until a full inspection of mine infrastructure can be completed. It is not currently known when mining operations will resume.

While we continue to work to stabilise operations our thoughts remain with our employees and all those suffering hardship in the local community.

ENDS

UPDATE: Thursday 7 January 2016 7.00pm

The major fire risk to the Wagerup refinery appears to have passed for the time being. There have been no reports of injuries to the workforce and our current focus is on providing relief to those people on site.

Fire threatened the refinery on multiple fronts and due to the exceptional efforts of Alcoa employees and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) fire crews there has been no significant damage to refinery infrastructure.

Power distribution at the plant was interrupted for a short time and impacted refinery operations. The Wagerup team is currently in the process of restoring full production. The Willowdale mine remains completely evacuated. The mine will remain closed until the fire threat has passed and the area is deemed safe for employees to return.

Alcoa Farmlands sustained some damage as a result of the fire. The Farmlands offices, comprising two demountable buildings, south of Hamel have been destroyed and there has been damage to fencing. We are not aware of any livestock loss.

ENDS

UPDATE: Thursday 7 January 2016 4pm

Fire crews continue to defend Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery against a bushfire. The fire has moved to the west of the refinery and all efforts are being made to protect infrastructure.

The Willowdale mine remains completely evacuated. The mine will remain closed until the fire threat has passed and the area is deemed safe.

Alcoa Farmlands has sustained some damage as a result of the fire. The Farmlands offices, comprising two demountable buildings, south of Hamel have been destroyed and there has been damage to fencing. We are not aware of any livestock loss.

There have been no reports of injuries to employees or contractors. The welfare of our employees is paramount and everything is being done to ensure employees in the refinery are safe.

ENDS

UPDATE: Thursday 7 January 2016 12.30pm

Fire crews are defending Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery against a bushfire that has impacted the Waroona and Hamel communities. Operations at the refinery are continuing, however operations at the Willowdale bauxite mine are currently suspended. The Willowdale mine has been completely evacuated.

Alcoa Farmlands has sustained some damage as a result of the fire. The Farmlands offices, comprising two demountable buildings, south of Hamel have been destroyed and there has been damage to fencing. We are not aware of any livestock loss.

There have been no reports of injuries to employees or contractors. The welfare of our employees is paramount and everything is being done to ensure employees in the refinery are safe.

ENDS

UPDATE: Thursday 7 January 2016 10.30pm

Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery has not been impacted by the Waroona bushfire, however operations at the Willowdale bauxite mine are currently suspended. A skeleton crew is at the mine site; all other Willowdale employees were evacuated last night and will not return until it is deemed safe.

Alcoa Farmlands has sustained some damage as a result of the fire. The Farmlands offices, comprising two demountable buildings, south of Hamel have been destroyed and there has been damage to fencing. We are not aware of any livestock loss.

There have been no reports of injuries to employees or contractors.

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