

Monitoring Victorian bushfires using imagery from satellites A and B of the Environmental Monitoring and Hazard Mitigation (HJ) Satellite Constellation

February 11, 2009

CRESDA: satellite image time 11 Feb 00:03 UTC; report received 11 Feb 10:24 UTC

A series of bushfires have ignited in the South east of Australia within Victoria and New South Wales on the 7th of February 2009 (Beijing Time). After receiving the request for data, the China Center for Resource Satellite Data and Applications (**CRESDA**) initiated the plan for emergency hazards and began keeping a close eye on the affected region. CRESDA then made an observation plan of two satellites (A and B) and thus started to monitor the bushfires.

CRESDA downloaded CCD and IRS images obtained on the 11 of February 2009 and then processed the mid-IR images immediately. Based on the interpretation of the results of the mid-IR, there are 16 combusting areas that could be seen very clearly (Figure 1). The coordinates (altitude and latitude) of these 16 sites are listed in the table below.

No.	Coordinates
1	36°33'38"S 146°46'58"E
2	36°34'35"S 146°47'35"E
3	36°29'54"S 146°55'02"E
4	36°33'11"S 146°53'31"E
5	36°32'25"S 146°54'48"E
6	36°34'30"S 146°53'26"E
7	36°34'22"S 146°54'22"E
8	36°34'05"S 146°57'15"E
9	36°34'37"S 146°57'34"E
10	36°33'50"S 146°58'13"E
11	36°34'15"S 147°00'01"E
12	36°33'54"S 147°00'27"E
13	36°37'15"S 147°00'12"E
14	36°38'20"S 147°01'13"E
15	36°39'45"S 147°15'46"E
16	36°42'21"S 147°13'50"E

As shown in the CCD image (Figure 2) of the combusted Wangaratta town, the affected area is around 23,000 hectares. The land cover and facilities in this town area were majorly destroyed.

CRESDA will continue monitoring the bushfires in this area and reporting the latest results to the relative departments.

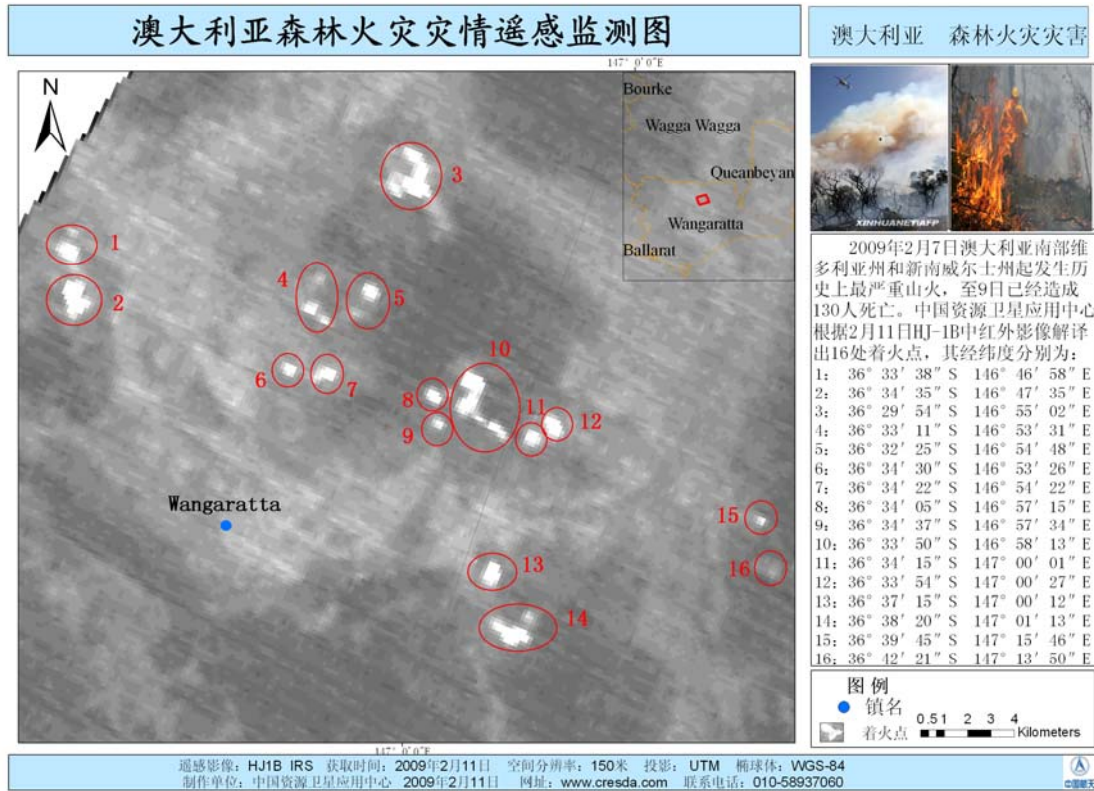


Fig 1 HJ-1-B mid-IR image

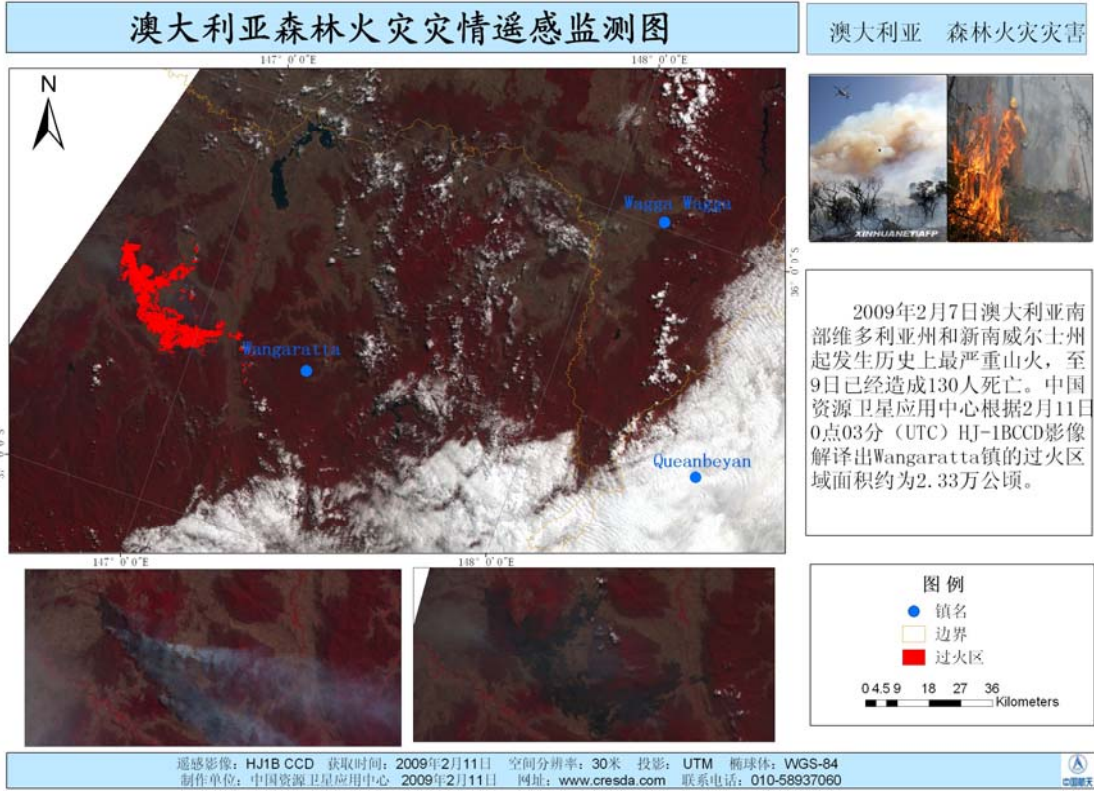


Fig 2 HJ-1-B CCD image