

Monitoring Australian bushfires using imagery from satellites A and B of Environmental Protection and Hazard Mitigation(HJ) Satellites Constellation

February 23, 2009

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 IRS images obtained on the 23 of February 2009 and processed the images immediately. Based on the interpretation results of these data, there are 8 new burning sites. The coordinates (altitude and latitude) of these 8 sites are listed in the table below.

- 1: 37° 23' 09" S 145° 50' 19" E
- 2: 37° 24' 47" S 145° 57' 37" E
- 3: 37° 40' 20" S 145° 39' 54" E
- 4: 37° 31' 05" S 145° 30' 53" E
- 37° 32' 22" S 145° 27' 47" E
- 5: 38° 51' 09" S 146° 25' 59" E
- 6: 38° 55' 47" S 146° 28' 51" E
- 7: 39° 01' 50" S 146° 25' 16" E
- 8: 39° 02' 09" S 146° 18' 17" E

Based on the interpretation results of CCD images newly downloaded, the burned area is around 12,700 hectares and 6 burning area could be seen clearly. The coordinates (altitude and latitude) of these 6 sites are listed in the table below.

- 1: 38° 50' 44" S 146° 26' 15" E
- 2: 38° 59' 52" S 146° 20' 50" E
- 3: 39° 01' 22" S 146° 19' 58" E
- 4: 39° 01' 53" S 146° 19' 41" E
- 5: 39° 02' 35" S 146° 18' 31" E

6: 39° 01' 42" S 146° 25' 52" E

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

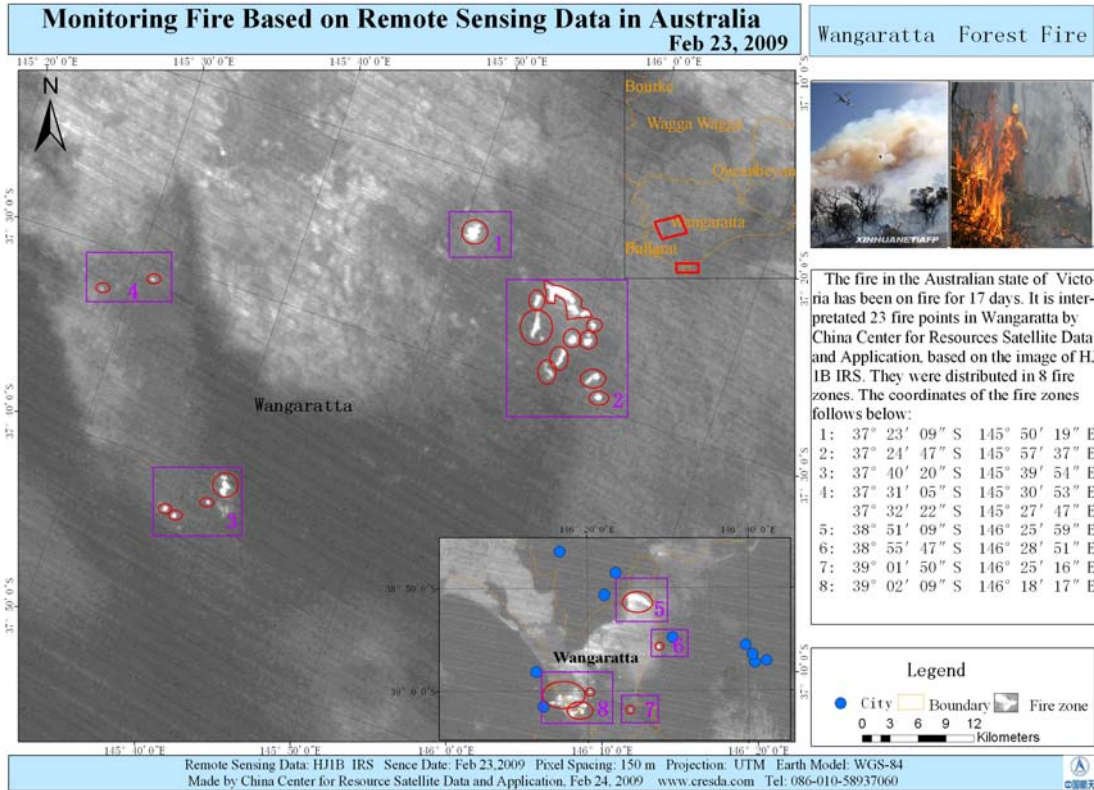


Fig 1 HJ-1-B IRS image (2009.2.23)

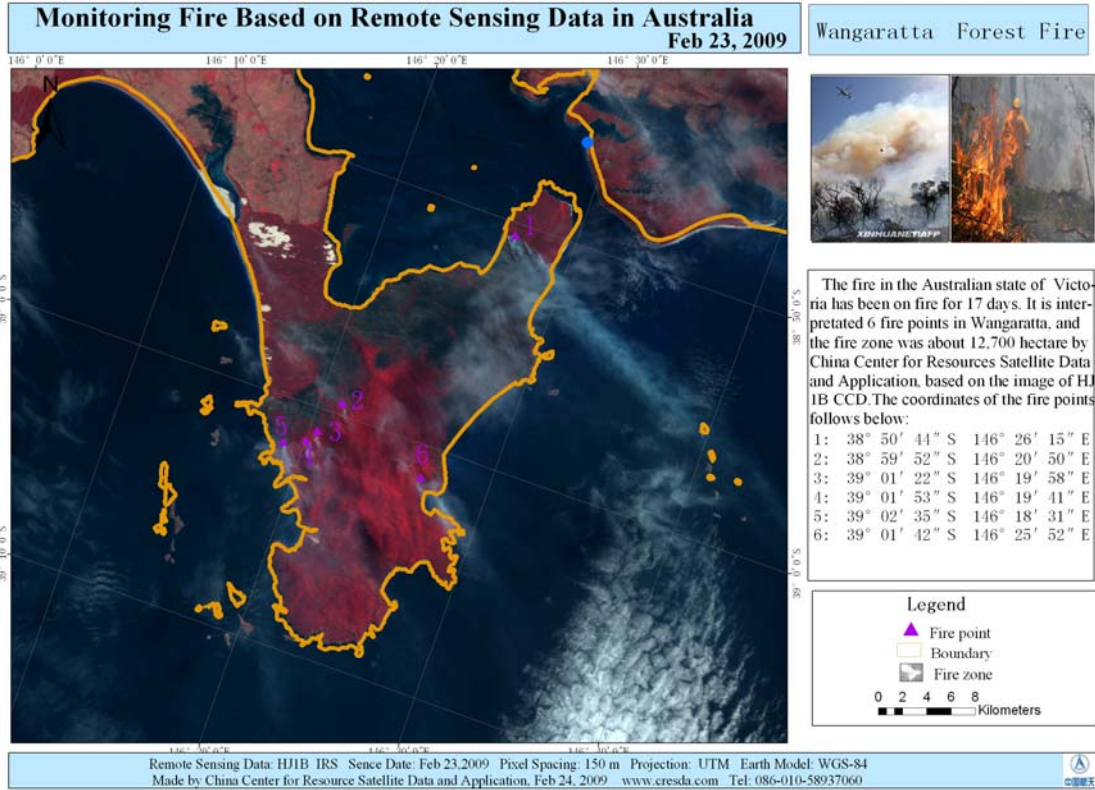


Fig 2 HJ-1-B CCD image (2009.2.23)