



Beaconsfield Gold Mine Media Release

SUBJECT: Larry Knight Inquest

DATE: 26 February, 2009

Beaconsfield Gold Mine says it is pleased with the Coroner's finding that no one directly contributed to the death of Larry Knight but is disappointed and strongly disagrees with his comments in relation to risk assessment.

Beaconsfield Gold Chief Executive Officer Bill Colvin said today that everybody associated with the Mine again expressed their sympathy to Larry Knight's family and friends for their loss and endorsed the sentiments of the Coroner in hoping that the process that everyone has been through in some way helps them come to terms with their loss.

"It has also been a difficult time for all our past and current employees who were involved in the rescue and the subsequent intensive work to bring the mine back to safe operation and we thank them for their efforts," Mr Colvin said.

He said that the finalisation of the Inquest brought to an end an unprecedented level of formal investigation and scrutiny of the mine following the tragic accident in April 2006.

Mr Colvin welcomed the acknowledgement by the Coroner that all stakeholders accepted the current ore extraction method at Beaconsfield Gold Mine represented "best practice".

"However the company is disappointed at the lack of acknowledgement of the extensive risk assessment process undertaken by the Beaconsfield Gold mine following the October 2005 rock fall.

"Contrary to comments made by the Coroner, there was rigorous risk assessment, the mine did vary its ground support system and it changed its mining method.

"Nevertheless, the Coroner did find that no person contributed to the death of Larry Knight," Mr Colvin said.

The company will assess the Coroner's report before making any further comment.

For further information please contact Michael Lester on 0425 235 157