



## Gold Ridge Operations Suspended

On 3 April 2014, St Barbara announced that it had taken the precautionary decision to close the open pit mines and stop processing at its Gold Ridge Operations in the Solomon Islands in order to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment, following significant rainfall in the preceding 24 hour period.

The extreme rainfall continued and subsequently developed into Tropical Cyclone Ita, with over 1,000 millimetres of rain recorded at site in the four days to 4 April 2014, including 500 mm recorded in one 24 hour period.

The ensuing flooding caused significant damage to main roads, including the only access road to the mine, and one key bridge. This damage has isolated the mine site from critical supplies of fuel necessary for onsite power generation, as well as food and medical supplies.

In addition, the open pits at the mines experienced flooding and significant damage. Security risks escalated rapidly over the weekend of 5 and 6 April to an unacceptable level, potentially endangering the 200 personnel onsite. The safety of the Gold Ridge workforce, the majority of whom are Solomon Islanders, is our highest priority and accordingly the decision to evacuate all personnel from site was taken.

Consequently the Gold Ridge Operations have been suspended. For the six months to 31 December 2013, Gold Ridge produced 29,431 ounces of gold, representing 15% of St Barbara's total gold production for the period.

The Company is in continuing discussions with the Solomon Islands Government regarding the future of the mine, and will provide an update in the March 2014 quarterly report due to be released later this month.



**Tim Lehany**

Managing Director and CEO