



Hazelwood Inquiry info/DPC@DTF

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To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF

cc

bcc

Subject Morwell Mine Fire Submission

1 attachment



Hazelwood-Coal-Mine.doc

Title: Mr

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Content of submission (you can choose multiple): Measures taken by Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent fire, Response to fire by Hazelwood Coal Mine, Response to fire by Emergency Services, Response to fire by Public Health Officials, Response to fire by Other Government Agencies

If Other please state here: Accountability

Please select one of the following options: I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the Inquiry.

Upload Submission:

<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Hazelwood-Coal-Mine.doc>

User Information

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User-Agent (Browser/OS): Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0; Windows NT 6.0; Trident/5.0)

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- Measures taken by Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent fire

- Seemingly non existent

The removal of sprinkler systems and the continued exposure of worked coal face has been an invitation for disaster since privatization. Seemingly no regard for previous Royal Commission recommendations of sprinkler systems and clay cover for exposed coal faces not currently being mined.

- Response to fire by Hazelwood Coal Mine

- Seemingly non existent

- Response to fire by Emergency Services

As is expected of CFA, police and other emergency services they have reacted in the most professional and effective way possible.

- Positive reactions would include Human services response, Ambulance, the setting up of health check centers, texting msg service and perhaps the most important was the community working together.

- Negatives would be the total lack of respect shown to the community by the mine operators, the slow and discriminating reaction from the Premier and government departments in general. This to include handing out money through Human Services without any real check as to the validity of claims made. \$500 fills a taxi boot with a multiple number of beer slabs or worse \$1250 per week is good money if you already own a second dwelling outside the effected area.

- Response to fire by Public Health Officials

Perhaps the health minister needs a couple of lessons on how to bull [redacted] to the community and be convincing at it.. Maybe the rest of the State believed but most of the residents of Morwell did not. A large number of the community are retired or active mine and electrical trades workers and they know what the most likely toxic effects to the community would be from such a mine fire. The most repeated statement from the health minister of there 'being no lasting effects from the inhalation of the smoke and air bourne particles' is mostly treated with Scepticism or total disbelief by the "Locals" Rightly so as the EPA figures now published confirm.

- Response to fire by Other Government Agencies

The sudden partitioning of the township of Morwell to be a small area of Morwell South and the 'rest' can only be a sectioning of the community to minimize costs to the State whilst giving the Premier maximum bragging status with the rest of the State.

No regards by government for the rest of the population of Morwell that woke up each morning with a layer of ash on the kitchen bench, in their mouths and lungs. A railway is not an effective barrier to the smoke and toxins that were emitted from the mine.

Slow response to shift some of the most vulnerable of the community from effected

areas, the insult of a free plastic bucket complete with mask and directions on how to clean goes nowhere close to the needs of each premises in Morwell. Roof cavities come complete with coal dust as a normal but with the ash as an extra insulation becomes even more ineffective.

Other (please state)

Accountability: This disaster has happened on an independent operators area of operation, from a fire that was started outside of their boundary reportedly by a person or persons irresponsible act of arson.

This can happen again and accountability needs to be defined before-hand.