



Hazelwood Inquiry info/DPC@DTF

08/04/2014 07:53 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Morwell Mine Fire Submission

1 attachment



Submission-to-Hazelwood-Mine-Fire.doc

Title: Mrs

First Name: Avenel

Surname: Casson

Email address: [REDACTED]

Home or office phone: [REDACTED]

Content of submission (you can choose multiple): Response to fire by Public Health Officials, Response to fire by Other Government Agencies

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/Submission-to-Hazelwood-Mine-Fire.doc>

User Information

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8th April 2014

Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Submissions
PO Box 3460
GIPPSLAND MC Vic 3841

Dear Sir/Madam

This submission is with respect to the lack of appropriate and timely health information provided to members of the public in rural communities, in the initial days of the Hazelwood Mine Fire, particularly with respect to protection of potable water supplies.

We live approximately 30km directly due east of Morwell in the rural locality of Hallston. Our property is within a valley bounded by Yarragon/Leongatha Road, Grand Ridge Road and the Mirboo/Yarragon Road, and was directly impacted by ash and smoke from the Hazelwood Mine fire, during the initial days of the fire, whilst we were under the influence of the Easterly Wind.

The smell of burning coal was first detected on the evening of Monday 10th February. By Tuesday 11th February visibility was down to less than 500 meters, outside work was impossible due to respiratory symptoms and any fruit and vegetables picked from the garden had to be washed before being consumed due to the thick layer of ash. These conditions remained for most of the week, being intermittent thereafter depending on the wind direction.

I searched the internet intensively for information on the potential content of the ash and smoke but could find no specific information. EPA, CFA etc websites were also uninformative.

Being a rural farming property, we do not have access to town water. My concerns were such, that all down pipes were disconnected from water tanks to prevent contamination of potable (drinking) water from subsequent rain.

To the best of my knowledge,

- No health warnings were issued until the wind direction changed and Morwell South was directly impacted by smoke and ash (on or around the 16th of February).
- All health warnings were in relation to effects of smoke, ash and subsequently evacuation of those at risk.
- At no time were rural communities (not on town water) provided with any information and advice in relation to protecting their potable water supplies.

Thank you for considering this information.

Yours sincerely,

Avenel Casson

[Redacted signature block]