

HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE INQUIRY

Submission cover sheet

Post your submission with this cover sheet to:

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

Email your submission with this cover sheet to info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au.

Title: MR	First Name: Robert "Stephen"	Surname: YELDS
Organisation represented (if applicable): RETIRED		
Email address:		
Postal address:	MORWELL 3840	
Telephone:	Mobile: [REDACTED]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Origin and circumstances of fire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measures by Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent fire <input type="checkbox"/> Application and administration of regulatory regimes <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)	Response to fire by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazelwood Coal Mine <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Agencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health Officials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Government Agencies	

Confidentiality

The Inquiry will consider all requests for confidentiality. Should you wish for your submission or parts of your submission, to be treated as confidential, please clearly state the reason in the space provided below. If you require more room, please attach a separate page and provide together with your submission.

Should the Inquiry consider the request for confidentiality not to be appropriate you will be provided with an opportunity to withdraw your submission or re-submit it in a form suitable for publication.

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.

OR

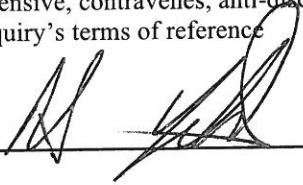
I request that my submission or parts of my submission, be treated as confidential, and not published quoted or summarised by the Inquiry, for reasons stated below

Acknowledgements

I understand that:

- I can be contacted by the Inquiry in relation to my submission.
- Anonymous submission will not be accepted.
- The name or work or suburb of each submitter will be identified as apart of every published submission. Other contact details will be removed before publishing.
- The Inquiry will not publish submission, if it believes that the submission material is or could be defamatory, offensive, contravenes, anti-discrimination or anti-vilification legislation or is outside the scope of the Inquiry's terms of reference

Signature



OR if sending electronically please confirm your acknowledgment by ticking by box

Date

18/04/2014

CONSTITUTION ACT 1975

APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO THE HAZELWOOD COAL MINE FIRE

ORDER IN COUNCIL

As:

- the Hazelwood Coal Mine, associated with the Hazelwood Power Station, is situated south of Morwell in the Latrobe Valley and consists of various sections on or adjacent to land on which mining is taking place, has taken place or may take place under Mining Licence Number 5004 (MIN 5004) as in force from time to time;
- in early February a fire ignited which, on or about 9 February 2014, took hold in the Hazelwood Coal Mine ("Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire"); and
- the people of Morwell and other residents of the Latrobe Valley have been adversely affected by the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire ("affected communities"),

the Governor in Council considers it expedient that a Board of Inquiry be appointed for the purposes of inquiring into, and reporting on, and making any recommendations that the Board considers appropriate in relation to, the matters specified below.

The Governor of the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council and acting pursuant to section 88C of the **Constitution Act 1975** and all other enabling powers, appoints:

- The Honourable Bernard George Teague AO
- Professor John Charles Catford
- Ms Sonia Anne Petering

as a Board to inquire into, and report on, and make any recommendations that the Board considers appropriate in relation to the matters specified below.

The specified matters are as follows:

1. The origin and circumstances of the fire, including how it spread into the Hazelwood Coal Mine.
2. The adequacy and effectiveness of the measures taken by or on behalf of the owner, operator and licensee of the Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent the outbreak of a fire, and to be prepared to respond to an outbreak of a fire including mitigating its spread and severity, in the Hazelwood Coal Mine, including whether the owner, operator and licensee of the Hazelwood Coal Mine, or any person or entity acting on behalf of any of them:
 - i. implemented the recommendations arising from reviews of previous events; and
 - ii. in the opinion of the Board, breached or did not comply with the requirements of (or under) any relevant statute or regulation, including any notification or directive given under such statute or regulation and any code of practice, management plan or similar scheme, developed and/or implemented due to such requirements.
3. The adequacy and effectiveness of the application and administration of relevant regulatory regimes in relation to the risk of, and response to, fire at the Hazelwood Coal Mine.

4. The adequacy and effectiveness of the response to the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire by:
 - i. the owner, operator and licensee of the Hazelwood Coal Mine;
 - ii. the emergency services; and
 - iii. other relevant government agencies, including environmental and public health officials,and, in particular, the measures taken in respect of the health and well-being of the affected communities by:
 - iv. informing the affected communities of the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire and about its known effects and risks; and
 - v. responding to those effects on, and risks to, the affected communities.
5. Any other matter reasonably incidental to the matters specified in paragraphs 1 to 4.

The Board is directed to:

- A. seek, in the conduct of its inquiry, not to prejudice any ongoing response or recovery activities or any investigations into the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire by Victoria Police or a coroner;
- B. work co-operatively, as appropriate, with other inquiries or investigations into the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire to avoid unnecessary duplication;
- C. conduct its inquiry otherwise as it considers appropriate, having regard to the desirability of adopting informal and flexible procedures that engage with the affected communities, ascertain the relevant facts as directly and effectively as possible and avoid unnecessary delay or cost; and
- D. report to the Governor its findings, and any recommendations, by 31 August 2014 at the latest.

The Governor in Council confirms and declares that:

- the Honourable Bernard George Teague AO is appointed as Chairperson of the Board;
- subject to the provisions of the **Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1958**, the powers of the Board may at any time be exercised by one or more members of the Board; and
- the Board has full power and authority to inquire into the specified matters by all lawful ways and means whatsoever.

By His Excellency's Command

Dated: 21 March 2014

Responsible Minister:

The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP
Premier



Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

What worked well in the lead up to the fire, during the fire, and in putting the fire out ?

The CFA ACTING Emediately to the Emergency

What didn't work well in the lead up to the fire, during the fire, and in putting the fire out ?

The Victorian Government, Local Member and Media Did not respond to any Emergency for several weeks. Warnings did not come to m about health effects at any time
(AN EMERGENCY WAS NOT CALLED)

What should be done differently to prevent such a fire in the future, and in response to it if it happens again ?

Government Ready Responce, Mine disused areas Covered by clay topping, Care and maintainan of the area surrounding the Mine and water spraying to keep Dust wet "so more care,"
For our Community

Latrobe Valley Residents

Your information below will help us provide data that will be used to improve the situation in Morwell.

Your personal details will not be disclosed. Feel free to leave out your personal details if you like and just complete the health issues and financial impacts on you.

Thank you for your help.

Name: Robert S. Yelds

Address: [REDACTED] MORWELL 3840

List your families health issues since the mine fire commenced on the 9th of February:

Raised blood pressure
Sore irritated EYES
Sore Throat
head aches
unable to do my walking EXERCISE for health.

} These are my own problems
due to living on my own
with my small Dog

List the financial impact of the mine fires on you and your family or your business:

Fuel cost of Travelling to Moe on bad
Smoke days and home again
spending more of my pension money due to
seeking clean air in major shopping Centres around
Morwell, Moe or TRARALGON. on occasion I have
Caught a Train to Melbourne for a days Fresh air
NOW I have to Leave my home for a couple of weeks
I STILL pay rates, Electricity, Gas and water bills even
though I have had to Leave my home. plus additional cost
of accommodation for 2-4 weeks away

Additional comments or concerns:

I have to wear a mask to complete my
meals on wheels volunteering for Latrobe city
Council at all times.
Unfortunately I have to stop Volunteering for a few
weeks due to this smoke and Bill Feelings.

This information will be collated and used to inform relevant departments regarding your
needs.

Cost of cleaning my home inside and out + car wash.

I came to Morwell in 2008 I was told about the coal pollution before I came. No one told me about the dust and lack of Emergency Mine Fire Fighting, Personnel and equipment needed, I was not informed about the Mine Owners not caring about the surrounding Community. It was only after I bought my home in Morwell that I realised the Victorian Government had leased this mine so as to get Free Government Building Electricity only for 99 years in signing an agreement with Hazelwood mine operators they gave away any care or thought for Regional Victorian this now depends on Taxpayers Money to keep such an expensive operation going and at the same time keep us ordinary home owners paying Huge amounts for Electricity with major health risk added. Thank you for caring about us and (NOT) helping us clean up.
Steve Yell

I Did not come to MORWELL TO DIE
OF NEGLECT