

# 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](mailto:info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au).

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

27<sup>th</sup> April 2014

### Submission to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

The Hazelwood coal mine fire should have been prevented or at least controlled. The owners of the mine and all other government regulatory bodies overseeing the responsible safe running of the mine have failed to protect not only employees working at the mine, but an entire community and surrounding area. The lack of duty by the owners and other regulatory bodies has caused significant damage, pain and suffering to many thousands of people. The community of Morwell situated in close proximity to the mine has suffered physically, mentally and financially due to their negligence.

Under occupational health and safety laws, even minor breaches of the law incur severe fines and penalties. Companies brought before the courts are severely penalized if they have not protected their employees or the public against injury and illness. The Environment Protection Authority fines motorists for simply having a faulty exhaust system that pollutes the air or is too noisy. One wonders what fine it should impose on a company that poisons and covers an entire community with ash, soot and toxic gases for weeks on end.

The catastrophic event that unfolded at the Hazelwood coal mine caused unprecedented damage to an entire community that thought it was safe and a good place to live. Instead it has now realised, all be it too late, that their safety has not, and never has been a priority, and that cost cutting and profit has been the main objective. As a consequence it has caused ill health to everyone, especially young vulnerable children, and those suffering from heart and breathing problems. Hearing your wife, who suffers from asthma, struggling to breathe every day and night since the fire is heartbreaking.

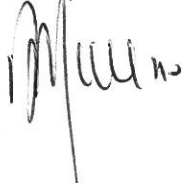
The fire has caused severe disruption to schools, kindergartens, businesses, nursing homes, medical centres the list goes on and on, with losses and cleaning totalling in the millions of dollars. One can only imagine the final cost to put out the fire by our brave and courageous fire fighters and employees of the company who risked their lives and possible injury and ill health to extinguish the fire.

The only outcome to this inquiry should be that whoever is found to be at fault should be held accountable for all the damage that it has caused, and fined to the maximum. No amount of money that the government has thrown to everyone can compensate or silence the community of Morwell for what it has had to endure.

The community of Morwell and surrounding areas can only hope that any fire in any open cut mine in any location in Australia will never happen again and that no one should have to suffer the same consequences.

One hopes and preys that everyone that has had to breathe the poisonous and toxic air that the Hazelwood coal mine fire has shrouded Morwell with for over two months will still be around in ten years time to tell their story.

Antonio Marino, Morwell South.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Marino', written in a cursive style.