



Hazelwood Inquiry info/DPC@DTF

05/05/2014 02:29 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF

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Subject Morwell Mine Fire Submission

1 attachment



HAZELWOOD-MINE-FIRE-INQUIRY-Submission-Jennifer-Walton.doc

Title: Ms

First Name: Jennifer

Surname: Walton

Email address: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [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/HAZELWOOD-MINE-FIRE-INQUIRY-Submission-Jennifer-Walton.doc>

User Information

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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: Ms	First Name: Jennifer	Surname: Walton
Organisation represented(<i>if applicable</i>):		
Email address:	[REDACTED]	
Postal address:	[REDACTED] Morwell 3840	
Telephone:	Mobile: [REDACTED]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Origin and circumstances of fire <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Hazelwood Coal Mine <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Officials <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

Acknowledgements

I understand that:

- I can be contacted by the Inquiry in relation to my submission.
- Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.
- The name or town 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

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

To Whom it Concerns

The first Tuesday after the fire started 11th February 2014, I worked for 2 hours cleaning a child care building located in Maryvale Crescent Morwell. My 13 year old grandson came with me then went to his friends mother's rented house in [REDACTED] (they have since permanently relocated to Traralgon). The boys had been friends for over 3 years. So my grandson does miss his friend. We, that is my grandson and I, can't relocate as less than a year before the fire started I got a 30 year mortgage on an old house that I have had work done to to make it livable.

As the fire has now impacted on the salability of properties in Morwell if I was to sell and move away from the area I believe that I would lucky to get enough money to pay the mortgage back, losing over \$50,000 in deposit and work done to the property.

At 5 am on the following Sunday a week after the fire started I was concerned about the smoke and so I checked the EPA website and saw that the reading was 1500 AQI. I did not know what that meant so I googled the meaning of AQI and noticed that the dangerously high reading was 150 AQI. The reading at that time was 10 times that and we could hardly breathe. So I rang the EPAs 24 hour phone number to be told that if I was concerned about the smoke that I should contact the CFA.

That morning when my grandson woke he complained about a sore throat and by evening he was so sick I took him to Latrobe Regional Hospital where the triage nurse said that he had a major throat infection. We waited 8 hours to see a doctor but the hospital was very busy so by that time it was 2 am Monday 17th February 2014. My grandson said he just wanted to go home without seeing a doctor. So I took him home and later that day to his own doctor who prescribed very strong antibiotics. As he was having trouble breathing he could not sleep so two days later I bought him a ventalin puffer over the counter. This helped ease his breathing and enabled him to sleep as he had a very bad dry cough. He missed 3 days of school and because the secondary schools didn't close down the children were made to go outside at lunchtime even though the smoke was quite bad. He is well now and no longer on ventalin. I am concerned about the long term effects on him and other children in his age group. I would like to suggest that if this ever happened again that the secondary students also be given the opportunity to relocate schools.

Another friend of mine is an 88 year old lady who lives with her grand-daughter in [REDACTED] Morwell. She was falling asleep while mixing a cake mix. I noted that her house was old and the doors have cracks and that the smoke was getting in. I suspect the carbon-monoxide was affecting her ability to get oxygen and therefore making her very sleepy.

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

Kind regards

Jennifer Walton