

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 3841Email your submission with this cover sheet to info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au.

Title: <i>MRS</i>	First Name: <i>MARIA</i>	Surname: <i>MARINO</i>
Organisation represented (if applicable):		
Email address:	[REDACTED]	
Postal address:	<i>Morwell VIC 3840</i>	
Telephone: [REDACTED]	Mobile: [REDACTED]	
Origin and circumstances of fire Measures by Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent fire Application and administration of regulatory regimes Other (please state)	Response to fire by: Hazelwood Coal Mine Emergency Services Environmental Agencies Public Health Officials 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. *all-ll*

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

Alvano & Maria Marino

MORWELL VIC 3840

TO THE BOARD OF THE HAZELWOOD INQUIRY

We are south side residents and our home is adjacent to the Hazelwood mine, approximately 500 metres.

Firstly we would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of all concerned in controlling the mine fire.

You will appreciate that since the Hazelwood coal mine fire our lives have been impacted and have not been the same for the following reasons:

- My husband and I have had various health issues as a result of the fire, from severe headaches, high blood pressure and asthma
- This disaster has affected us emotionally and mentally
- This disaster disrupted our family life, loss of enjoyment and the right to health
- We were prisoners within our own home on days of poor air quality
- We are concerned about any long term health issues arising due to exposure to the toxic ash and smoke, whether it be short term
- When the smoke was intense, we had to purchase our own masks fitted with special charcoal filters from the local safety store, as there was a timely delay in assistance from the State and Local Government and Council. Once the coal mine fire was news headline **then the Government reacted**, then handing out free masks which from my understanding were not the correct ones which should have filtered the small particles
- Financially we are out of pocket \$700 for the excess on our insurance claim, our water account has increased as a result of washing down the exterior of our home and driveway. We had to purchase 2 airpurifiers amounting to \$300 to filter the air in our home.
- The value of our home has depreciated considerably as a result of the mine fire approximately 30%
- The assistance offered to the vulnerable Southside residents should have been extended to all residents of Southside not just the vulnerable who had Health Care Cards, we were all affected by the situation. In my case I could not leave work. Some people who did claim the assistance did not even leave town the funds were used to purchase alcohol, TV's etc.

- Our home of more than 30 years which we take pride in requires a total cleanup inside and out. Our insulation of only 4 years has to be replaced as there is a thick layer of coal ash. Our insurance claim has been accepted but to date are still waiting on the cleaning contractors to commence their work. It is an ongoing chore to wipe down furniture as there is a fine layer of white ash coming from the contaminated insulation, which we are breathing in.
- Buffer zone – our residence is only approximately 500m from the mine, from our understanding it should be at least 1.5 km. Why was this allowed to happen so close to residences.
- GDF Suez's should be held responsible for the failure to properly maintain the unused mine and non compliance with air quality standards
- "Clean Air Act"? – Whether the station owners are/were complying with emission permits – if they dirty property or harm in any way – cause of action against them.