



**Fw: Submission to Hazelwood coal mine fire inquiry**

info to: [REDACTED]  
Sent by: [info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au)

13/05/2014 09:34 AM

Submission

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED]/HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 13/05/2014 09:34 AM -----



[REDACTED]  
09/04/2014 11:49 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry  
info/DPC@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Submission to Hazelwood coal  
mine fire inquiry

Submission:

Dear Board of Inquiry,

I am writing this submission to request that your investigation take account of the following:

1. Health effects: The health effects of the fire need to be fully understood, and the inquiry should recommend a separate public inquiry into the long-term health effects on the affected people. This is particularly important since there are a lot of chemicals present in coal smoke where the effect of this sort of relatively high exposure for a period of weeks is unknown (while extreme acute exposure and workplace exposure over the course of years is better known).
2. Fire policy: If the fire prevention policy was adequate, then the fire should not have taken hold. Media reports have suggested that the fire-fighting pipes and sprinklers had been removed, which is alarming if true.
3. Rehabilitation bond: Rehabilitation means the mine site should be left clean and safe. I am concerned that the very small rehabilitation bond for the Hazelwood mine will mean GDF Suez is less likely to properly rehabilitate the site, leaving a burden of possibly hundreds of millions of dollars to Victoria taxpayers.
5. Quality of rehabilitation: Hazelwood's mining licence requires them to do "progressive rehabilitation" of the mine. I am concerned that the coal in an area that should have been rehabilitated as it hadn't been mined for decades was still able to catch on fire. It suggests that existing rehabilitation requirements were inadequate or not enforced.
6. Enforceable timelines: I think the Hazelwood Work Plan should have enforceable timelines for rehabilitation, to ensure disused parts of the

mine

are rehabilitated and made safe as quickly as possible.

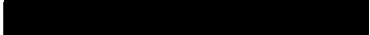
7. Public findings: Given that this inquiry is investigating the causes of a major public health event, I feel it is important that the inquiry's findings be made public very shortly after the completion of your report.

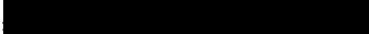
I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the inquiry.

Regards,

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