



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

13/05/2014 09:36 AM

Submission

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 13/05/2014 09:36 AM -----



[REDACTED]
 29/04/2014 09:44 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
 info/DPC@DTF
 cc
 bcc
 Subject janolbran@netspace.net.au

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 population. Where I live in Traralgon, there was almost a week without respite from the smoke and particulate matter and it made exercise outdoor such as riding my bike impossible. Even with a face mask, I still felt unwell. I experienced shortness of breath and listlessness for almost the entire 4 weeks of heavy pollution. I now can honestly say that my general health has improved since the smoke stopped.
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. Origins of fire: I was shocked to learn that there are small fires in the mine that have been burning for years. The Inquiry should investigate the source of the fire, and the contributing role these "hot-spots" in the mine might have made to the outbreak of the mine fire.
4. 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. Any coal development needs to have a rehabilitation bond commensurate with the risk. Look at how much it cost to fight the recent fire and you can

see
that the amount of money set aside needs to be substantial and adequate for
the
immense task of rehabilitating the mined out sites.

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 disaster, 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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