



**Fw: Submission from Elaine and Barry Quirk**

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

13/05/2014 09:43 AM

Submission

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 13/05/2014 09:43 AM -----



[REDACTED]  
10/05/2014 12:45 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry  
info/DPC@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Re: Submission from Elaine and  
Barry Quirk

Sent from Samsung tablet

----- Original message -----

From [REDACTED]  
Date: 10/05/2014 12:33 (GMT+10:00)  
To [info@hazelwoodmineinquiry.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hazelwoodmineinquiry.vic.gov.au)  
Subject Submission

I would like to add my comments to the inquiry as follows: my husband and I both suffer from and with lung disease, and, while we are both able to control our conditions, have suffered a great deal from the impact of the smoke and ash from the Hazelwood Mine Fire.

We were virtually prisoners in our own home for at least seven weeks, with the exception of a period of 8 days when we travelled to Sea Lake to visit family and absent ourselves from the horrendous conditions here in Morwell. We also spent four days in Geelong but had to return home as I (Elaine Quirk) was so ill and had to return to my doctor here in Morwell. I was found to be suffering from a bacterial lung infection deemed to be caused as result from the contaminated air from the fire. My husband (Barry Quirk) who suffers with asbestosis, also succumbed to five days in bed with a severe fever and coughing fit, attributable, we believe, to the mine fire.

We were unable to enjoy any kind of quality of life during those seven to eight weeks and were frightened to go outside without masks and other face coverings. The impact of this event (the mine fire) has left Elaine with a continual cough and exacerbated breathlessness, and Barry still has coughing fits and some breathlessness on occasions.

Morwell has been our home for 56 years and we do not wish to leave the area as Morwell IS home for us. We both hope that this Inquiry will result in some changes being made to the air quality in this region, as I believe those of us who have maintained our loyalty and commitment to Morwell and the surrounding area deserve better than the current situation.

In closing, I would like to add that, while there is much negative press given to this town, the falling house prices and values, the overall quality of life...MORWELL IS OUR HOME AND

WE NEED IT TO BE THE BEST IT CAN BE. Our thanks go to those who fought the fire and to Latrobe City for their efforts.

Elaine and Barry Quirk



Morwell. 3840

Sent from Samsung tablet