

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: <i>Mrs</i>	First Name: <i>TESSIE</i>	Surname: <i>JORDAN</i>
Organisation represented (if applicable): <i>N/A</i>		
Email address:	<i>N/A</i>	
Postal address:	<i>Morwell VIC - 3840</i>	
Telephone: [Redacted]	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 checked="" 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	

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Acknowledgements

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Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

12 May 2014

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Submission to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

My name is Tessie Jordan. I have lived in Morwell since 1988, when I moved here from the Phillipines after I married. My husband, Alan Jordan, worked at the briquette factory in Morwell until he retired in 1997.

We live at [REDACTED] in a single-storey unit that is made of brick with a tiled roof. We have lived there for approximately 17 years.

On 9 February 2014, the day of the fire, I was in Sale with friends at a folk dance. Around midday one of our friends became very distressed because she had heard there was a fire in Morwell near the Rose Garden. She was very concerned because she lives in [REDACTED], which is very close to the Rose Garden. My friend called her husband, who was at home, to ask him about the fire and he said 'What fire?'

We left Sale not long after that and were surprised when we got to Traralgon because of the traffic that was lined up. Then when we reached Morwell we were delayed for 5-10 minutes at the roadblock due to the Maryvale fire. We could see smoke – lots of smoke – and a helicopter. At that stage we knew things couldn't be good.

When we got into Morwell there was smoke everywhere, so we thought we might go to Elgin Street for a better look, but Elgin Street was blocked because of poor visibility, so we went home. It was hot and windy.

The hot and windy weather continued for 45 days. So did the smoke and the ash, which you could see falling in flakes.

During those 45 days I had to clean on a daily basis so that the ash and dust didn't build up. I had to sweep the driveway, clean the windows, wipe down the windowsills and under the doors, clean the outside of the house, clean the car (which was in the garage), clean the furniture, dust and vacuum inside the house etc. I was using the vacuum and a damp cloth to clean inside. I had to do this every single day.

I wasn't able to get into the roof cavity of our unit, and I am very worried about the ash and dust that I believe has built up in there. I am worried that the build up has created a fire risk, especially on top of the insulation bats. I am also worried that my husband and I are still breathing in fine particle dust that has collected in the roof, and is seeping through the roof.

I am also worried about the long term health effects. Who knows what might happen five years down the track?

During those 45 days I had itchy eyes and an itchy nose. Just before the fire my husband had just gotten over a case of whooping cough, which he'd had for a little over a year. I'm worried about how the fire might have affected his health.

Aside from the health effects, during the 45 days we were severely inconvenienced. Being told not to go outdoors, meant we stayed inside and were not able to pursue our day to day living activities.

I would hope that the mine owners will compensate the community for the discomfort and ill effects of the fire, and I ask the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry to look into this matter as part of its inquiry.


Tessie Jordan


MORWELL VIC 3840

