



Fw: Morwell Mine Fire Submission

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

14/05/2014 01:56 PM

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 14/05/2014 01:56 PM -----



Hazelwood Inquiry info/DPC@DTF

12/05/2014 03:44 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF

cc
bcc

Subject Morwell Mine Fire Submission

Title: Ms

First Name: Martina

Surname: Blaney

Email address: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Content of submission (you can choose multiple): Response to fire by Public Health Officials, Response to fire by Other Government Agencies, Other (please state)

If Other please state here: Problems with clean up, tank water, health concerns

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.

Upload Submission:

<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Mine-Fire.docx>

User Information

User-Agent (Browser/OS): Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64)

AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/34.0.1847.131

Safari/537.36

Referrer:

<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/make-a-submission/online-submissions/>



Mine-Fire.docx

Hello there. There are a few points I want to make and I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

1. I live in Boolarra and have done so for 4 years. I want the board to know that the smoke and ash etc from the mine fire wasn't confined to Morwell and the immediate outskirts and I have suffered and continue to suffer from the effects of this.
2. I have never suffered from respiratory concerns in my life until now, since having to drive through the smoke to get to work, 2 occasions I ventured in to Morwell to shop and one night when I forgot to close my bedroom window and was woken by the smoke drift filling my house. On all these occasions I found it difficult to breathe, felt very nauseous and had a sore throat and cough which lasted until the following day. I have noticed a few times since when I laugh too much especially, that I am a bit wheezy and it makes me cough. As I write, I have bronchitis and have developed a wheeze from what started out as a cold I caught from my grandson. He is fine but over a week on and I am off to the doctors again and have taken time off work. Too coincidental when I have never experienced this any other time in my life. I fear that I will never have "just a cold" again.
3. I have always been very health conscious and even though I loved the landscape, I always vowed I could never live in "the Valley" because of the dirty coal mines. However after doing research on the Shires website which spoke of a "green buffer" between the Valley and Boolarra and also the fact that Boolarra had their own Water Supply Plant with NO FLUORIDE I decided to buy a block of land and owner build my little home for myself and my daughter. That was in 2010. 2012 Boolarras Water Treatment plant was made redundant and we now have not only Fluoride but a heap of other chemicals in our mains water. Which I thought I would never have to worry about because I was smart and to save money and resources and to have fresh water I bought the biggest rainwater tank I could buy and have only used that water supply - up until now, when I am forced to use mains water as the water in my tank, only since the mine fire, has a very strange smell and taste which the purchase (\$300) and installation of a 2 phase filter system has been unable to rectify. There is no way I can shower in it. I called the Latrobe shire and was told that I could have my water tested at SGS in Traralgon. Collected the instructions etc from the Recovery Centre and took the samples to SGS. He test paid for by the shire didn't test for Sulphure Dioxide or PAH and metals and I had

been advised that these were the more toxic elements and were from Partly combusted Coal. I was advised that I could only have this test or the one that the shire was offering to people. Kelly (at SGS) stated that "a lady had to have this test done as she was getting sick" I decided to have this done. Results were Negative. Informed that I could have the other test but that it would cost me "a couple of hundred" or there was another test, if I really wanted to find out what was causing the odour and taste but that it would cost about \$900.

4. There was a man (I wish I had paid more attention to his name) on WIN news not to drink the water in their tanks as the color coming off the roofs was brown. Bit late as this advise was given the day AFTER it rained. We had had no rain for 4 weeks in Boolarra and it was after this rain that I noticed the smell and taste.
5. I spoke to a woman at the Shire about the water and that I was having it tested. She informed me that "You actually aren't entitled to have it tested. Only the people in Morwell using tank water as their only source of water are entitled. You live in Boolarra" She said though that if my tank needed cleaning it would be done. By this I presume she meant "If the test results were Positive." So what do I do now? I have to drain and clean my tank and roof. I am on a health care card but I live in Boolarra. I can't afford to "Prove" that there is something wrong with my water but I can't drink it or use it at all. I'm forced to use the mains water which I haven't had to use for 4 years.
6. I really feel so sorry for the poor people who had to live in those conditions for weeks on end and have no doubt there will be serious health repercussions now and many years down the track. For myself If I could move I would but I doubt tht it would be easy for me to sell my house - even if I don't live "in the Valley". I am very sad and I really need some help to get my tank and roof back to being clean enough to catch water in it gain and to be reimbursed for the useless water filter I bought to try and remedy the situation myself. As for my health, I am very upset that for all these years I have tried so hard to stay healthy and feel I now have these problems through no fault of my own and with no help to get back on track and I know I am only one in thousands. Very sad. Thanks for your time.