

Attachment: Outline of witness statement from Incident Controllers**Preparedness**

1. What was the level of readiness of the Traralgon Incident Control Centre (ICC), and any other ICC in the Latrobe Valley region, for 9 February 2014? Was a core Incident Management Team (IMT) or a full IMT in place on that day?

Response

2. Outline the IMT in place between 7 and 9 February in relation to the Hernes Oak-McDonalds Track fire.
3. Detail the steps taken to suppress the Hernes Oak-McDonalds Track fire and, in particular, prevent it from spotting into the Mine between 7 and 9 February 2014.
4. Outline the make-up of the IMT for the fires at the Mine during the period from 9 February until the fires were brought under control. If the size and composition of the IMT changed over time, describe the changes and explain why they occurred.
5. Outline the make-up of the Emergency Management Team (EMT) for the fires at the Mine during the period from 9 February until the fires were brought under control. If the size and composition of the EMT changed over time, describe the changes and explain why they occurred.
6. Outline the plan to suppress the fires at the Mine developed by the IMT from 9 February 2014 onwards. Explain any iterations of the plan and when and why changes to the strategy were made. Include all relevant Incident Action Plans.
7. Were any difficulties experienced in implementing the IMT's plan(s)?
8. What external expertise informed the IMT's strategic approach?
9. Provide your views on what worked well, what did not work well and what could have been done better in relation to the preparedness for, and response to, the fires at the Mine.

Communications

10. Detail the community information and warnings issued by the Incident Controllers during the course of the fire at the Mine. List and provide copies of the information and warnings that were issued, in chronological order.

11. Given the nature of the incident, explain how the community information and warnings were tailored to vulnerable community members such as the young, the elderly and those suffering from pre-existing respiratory illnesses.
12. Provide your views on what worked well, what did not work well and what could have been done better in relation to the communications with the community.

Evacuation

13. Part 3.8 of the State Emergency Response Plan empowers the Incident Controller, in consultation with Victoria Police, to recommend evacuation of people from threatened areas during an emergency. Was evacuation of part or all of Morwell considered by an Incident Controller at any time? Explain the nature of the consideration and identify who was involved. Explain what conclusions were reached and the basis for those conclusions.
14. Did the Incident Controller for the fires at the Mine have any input into the advice given by the Chief Health Officer on 28 February 2014 for vulnerable groups to leave Morwell? Please detail the Incident Controller's role in the provision of that advice.

Liaison with other parties

15. Detail the liaison arrangements during the course of the firefight in the Mine between the IMT and other parties including:
 - (1) the Mine operator;
 - (2) the Environment Protection Authority;
 - (3) the Victorian WorkCover Authority (**WorkSafe**); and
 - (4) the Chief Health Officer.
16. Provide your views on what worked well, what did not work well and what could have been done better in relation to liaison with other parties.