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in reply please quote:

GE06/0078

6 May 2014

The Hon M Dixon MP
Minister for Education
2 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister 

I write to acknowledge the support and services provided by the Emergency Management Division of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). In particular, I thank the Department for the strong collaboration with the Catholic Education Office in regard to the Orbest, Buchan, Goongerah-Deddick Trail bushfires, the Wandong-Mickleham, Kilmore grassfires and the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.

At an operational level we were very grateful for the advice and information provided by the Incident Management Team (IMT) which includes daily updates from the State Control Centre (SSC). In particular, the IMT provided clear communication to our schools and their communities to ensure all affected by these events have the information they need in order to make informed decisions regarding their safety. The professionalism, goodwill and dedication of the unit was excellent.

I would like to convey our thanks to Mr Nick Pole, Deputy Secretary Regional Services Group DEECD; Mr Geoff Peterson, Executive Director Emergency Management Division and his team of Ms Jenny McKeagney, Manager Emergency Management; Mr David Cross and Ms Therese Carroll.

I also would like to thank the Department for the assistance offered to our two schools in Morwell during the clean-up process following the Hazelwood fire.

The CECV greatly values its collaboration with DEECD on the issue of emergency management for all Victorian schools and looks forward to continuing the strong collaborative relationship with the Department's Emergency Management Division.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Elder
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR