

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 08/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 13	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:	
Situation Summary	The following report is focussed on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley and the bushfires in East Gippsland. In East Gippsland, the Goongerah-Deddick Trail fire has not yet been contained, but is not posing a threat to communities. Active fire in the Hazelwood mine has been significantly reduced.
Known impacts	Smoke from the Hazelwood Mine fire continues to impact on Morwell and other communities in the area.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>Department of Health: On Friday 07 March 2014, 65 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre.</p> <p>As at COB Thursday 07 March 2014, there have been 1812 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014. GP practises have reported increased presentations of patients with respiratory conditions however the load is being managed.</p> <p>Overall presentations to Latrobe Regional Hospital are slightly above usual numbers, but the hospital reports these presentations are not related to the Latrobe Valley mine fire.</p> <p>The Nurse on Call (NoC) service has noted a small increase in demand and continues to be actively promoted within the community.</p> <p>Work is being done on the trigger for issuing advice to the community on when it is safe to return to Morwell, south of Commercial Rd.</p>																														
Human Services Command	<p>EM Workforce A number of DHS staff continue to be deployed to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations in Morwell.</p> <p>Staffing numbers deployed for DHS for Saturday 8 March 2014 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84 DHS staff at regional level in Gippsland and 2 DHS staff at state level. <p>Impacts on DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored and regular contact is being maintained as required.</p> <p>The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance.</p>																														
Human Services Command (continued)	<p>High Level Summary Report <i>The following table contains a list of today's respite and relocation figures as at 1630 hrs and cumulative figures for the event:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>8/3/2014 as at 1630</th> <th>Total event activity number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>197</td> <td>5498</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>38</td> <td>1084</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>116</td> <td>3864</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>111</td> <td>2622</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>90</td> <td>2415</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments</td> <td>10</td> <td>622</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td>1</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where it has been identified that funds may have been obtained inappropriately, DHS is providing information to Victoria Police for investigation. One item has been referred to Victoria Police for investigation into a potential fraud, and further four items are being investigated.</p>		8/3/2014 as at 1630	Total event activity number	Respite Calls	197	5498	Relocation Calls	38	1084	Appointments Made	116	3864	Appointments Attended	111	2622	Respite Payments	90	2415	Relocation Payments	10	622	Second relocation payment	10	11	Payments Rejected	1	18	Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4
	8/3/2014 as at 1630	Total event activity number																													
Respite Calls	197	5498																													
Relocation Calls	38	1084																													
Appointments Made	116	3864																													
Appointments Attended	111	2622																													
Respite Payments	90	2415																													
Relocation Payments	10	622																													
Second relocation payment	10	11																													
Payments Rejected	1	18																													
Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4																													
Relief (including relief partner agencies)	<p>Moe Respite Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three people attended throughout the day (as at 1630 hours). Current staff resources include DHS, Council, Victorian Council of Churches and Red Cross <p>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirteen people attended throughout the day (as at 1630 hours). 																														

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

	<p><u>Register.Find.Reunite.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross have registered 4,668 Morwell residents to date (note this is less than the number reported yesterday as some registrations were inadvertently counted twice). Red Cross staff are present at the two DHS Respite and Relocation Centres to provide Register.Find.Reunite. services.
Recovery	<p>A draft Recovery Transition Plan for the Hazelwood mine fire has been signed off.</p> <p>Development of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery plan February – March 2014 is progressing. The Hazelwood mine fire Recovery Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March 2014.</p> <p>A 'Gippsland Bushfire Recovery Plan - 2014 Bushfires', which addresses recovery planning for other significant fires in Gippsland during January and February is being finalised and will shortly be distributed to the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Committee.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> updating of relief and recovery centre information on Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria website, updating scripts for the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line monitoring of social media and traditional media
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

ISSUES:

Issue	The Morwell community is experiencing levels of stress in relation to the ongoing environmental conditions.
Action Taken	DHS continues to provide respite and relocation payments and has implemented a range of community supports. Active planning is underway to transition to recovery.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Latrobe City	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Community Respite Centre	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	The Greek Hall 46 Elgin Street, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9pm – 6pm
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	8am – 8pm

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE EAST GIPPSLAND FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA*	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland	45	\$37,500

Region and LGA*	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland	1	\$3,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$40,500

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE – Latrobe City (as at 1630 hrs)

	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments	90	2914	\$1,207,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	10	622	595,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	10	11	\$9,250
TOTAL			\$1,812,250

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Sunday 9 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management

Justin Dunlop: State Health Coordinator