

**STATE SITUATION REPORT**

**1800hrs, 09/03/2014**

<b>INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:</b>	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
<b>SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:</b>	# 14	<b>INCIDENT LEVEL:</b>	2

**SITUATION SUMMARY:**

Situation Summary	<p>The following report is focussed on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley and the bushfires in East Gippsland. EPA testing shows that levels of PM2.5, the invisible particles causing the most health concern for residents, and carbon monoxide levels have remained at good and very good ratings on Sunday 09 March across the Latrobe Valley, as at 1600hrs.</p> <p>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.</p>
Known impacts	Smoke from the Hazelwood Mine fire continues to impact on Morwell and other communities in the area.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

Health Command/Coordination	<p><u>Department of Health</u> On Saturday 08 March 2014, 32 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre.</p> <p>As at COB Saturday 08 March 2014, there have been 1844 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014.</p> <p>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><u>Emergency management workforce</u> DHS staff continue to be deployed to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations in Morwell. On Sunday 09 March 2014, a total of 77 DHS staff were deployed, 75 at regional level (Gippsland Regional Emergency Management Centre, call centre, assessment centres), and 2 at state level (State Emergency Management Centre).</p> <p><u>Clients and services</u> Impacts on DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored and regular contact is being maintained as required.</p> <p><u>High level summary report</u> The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance.</p> <p><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>9/3/2014 as at 1630hrs</th> <th>Total prior to 9/3/2014</th> <th>Total event activity number as at 9/3/2014 1630hrs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Respite Calls</b></td> <td>112</td> <td>5,498</td> <td>5,610</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Relocation Calls</b></td> <td>64</td> <td>1,084</td> <td>1,148</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appointments Made</b></td> <td>245</td> <td>3,865</td> <td>4,109</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appointments Attended</b></td> <td>77</td> <td>2,622</td> <td>2,699</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Respite Payments</b></td> <td>47</td> <td>2,415</td> <td>2,462</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Relocation Payments</b></td> <td>7</td> <td>622</td> <td>629</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Second relocation payment</b></td> <td>18</td> <td>11</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Payments Rejected</b></td> <td>5</td> <td>18</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Accommodation arranged by DHS</b></td> <td>-</td> <td>4</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>		9/3/2014 as at 1630hrs	Total prior to 9/3/2014	Total event activity number as at 9/3/2014 1630hrs	<b>Respite Calls</b>	112	5,498	5,610	<b>Relocation Calls</b>	64	1,084	1,148	<b>Appointments Made</b>	245	3,865	4,109	<b>Appointments Attended</b>	77	2,622	2,699	<b>Respite Payments</b>	47	2,415	2,462	<b>Relocation Payments</b>	7	622	629	<b>Second relocation payment</b>	18	11	29	<b>Payments Rejected</b>	5	18	23	<b>Accommodation arranged by DHS</b>	-	4	4
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Relief (including relief partner agencies)	<p><u>Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All appointments were held today at the Greek Hall at 46 Elgin Street Morewell</li> </ul>																																								

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	<p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three people attended today (as at 1630hrs)</li> <li>Current staff resources include DHS, Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and local council,</li> </ul> <p><u>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre</u> 22 Hazelwood Rd Morwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven people attended today (as at 1630hrs)</li> <li>Nil Health checks</li> </ul> <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephone outreach commenced on Saturday 08 March. As at 1745hrs on Sunday 09 March, 433 people have received a welfare check phone call. Calls are being made to those over 70 years who had registered with refister.Find.Reunite.</li> <li>Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite - 4,843 registrations of Morewell residents to date (as at 1600hrs).. Cumulative data is inclusive of closed centers.</li> <li>Red Cross staff are also present at the three DHS respite centres to provide Register.Find.Reunite services.</li> </ul>
Recovery	<p>A draft <i>Transition Plan for the Hazelwood mine fire</i> has been signed off. It will be forwarded to the State Emergency Management Centre once complete.</p> <p>A <i>Gippsland Bushfire Recovery Plan - 2014 Bushfires</i>, which addresses recovery planning for other significant fires in Gippsland during January and February is being finalised. The draft was sent to the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Committee (Bushfires) on Friday 07 March, with a request for input and comment by Wednesday 12 March.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>The DHS Regional Commander has been attending daily media conferences at the Regional Control Centre.</p> <p>Liaison with DHS Traralgon officers, communications officers from Fire Services Commissioner, Country Fire Authority and regional control centre</p> <p>Development of key messages and speaking notes regarding the recovery process</p> <p>Updating of call centre script for DHS 1800 number</p>
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 open for all	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	Appointments
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*	44	\$30,000

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland*	0	0

\*Note: Payment summaries for both Latrobe and Wellington Shires are no longer included as the focus of the Situation report is now on the East Gippsland fires only, as well as the Hazelwood mine fire. Variations from yesterday's Situation Report are due to excluding Latrobe and Wellington Shires payments.

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$30,000**



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

	Today's Payments made today (as at 1630hrs)	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments	47	2,462	\$1,231,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	7	629	\$602,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	18	29	\$24,750
			<b>\$1,858,000</b>

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Location & LGA	DHS in attendance (Y/N)	Date	Time

**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*

*Vanessa Coli: State Health Coordinator*