

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 10/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 15	INCIDENT LEVEL:	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.</p> <p>The Hazelwood open cut mine fire has been controlled, with only small hot spots being monitored and extinguished. The smoke from the fire remains and EPA is continuing to monitor the air quality. The Chief Health Officer has maintained the current health advice for 'people at risk' to consider relocating from the affected area. This advice will remain in place as EPA continues to monitor air quality data for improvements.</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>On Sunday 09 March 2014, 22 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre. As at COB Sunday 09 March 2014, there have been 1866 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 continues to be done on the trigger for issuing advice to the community on when it is safe to return to Morwell, south of Commercial Rd."</p> <p>3 DH staff are deployed to the Gippsland region to work in the Regional IMT.</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 response to the incident in Morwell. DHS staffing numbers for Monday, 10 March 2014 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 at regional level in Gippsland and 4 DHS staff at state level. <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>10/3/2014 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>Respite Calls</td> <td>151</td> <td>5,610</td> <td>5,761</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>64</td> <td>1,148</td> <td>1,212</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>100</td> <td>34,109</td> <td>4,209</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>85</td> <td>2,699</td> <td>2,784</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>58</td> <td>2,462</td> <td>2,520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments</td> <td>8</td> <td>629</td> <td>637</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td>17</td> <td>29</td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td>2</td> <td>23</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		10/3/2014 as at 1630hrs	Total prior to 9/3/2014	Total event activity number as at 9/3/2014 1630hrs	Respite Calls	151	5,610	5,761	Relocation Calls	64	1,148	1,212	Appointments Made	100	34,109	4,209	Appointments Attended	85	2,699	2,784	Respite Payments	58	2,462	2,520	Relocation Payments	8	629	637	Second relocation payment	17	29	46	Payments Rejected	2	23	25	Accommodation arranged by DHS	-	4	4
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	DHS has a fraud management process in place to assist in the prevention of funds being obtained inappropriately. Four referrals regarding possible inappropriate access to payments have been referred to Victoria Police for investigation.
Relief (including relief partner agencies)	<p><u>Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre operated at the Greek Hall at 46 Elgin Street Morwell <p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two people attended today, 10 March 2014 (as at 1630hrs) Current staff resources include DHS, Council, Red Cross and personal support <p><u>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre</u> 22 Hazelwood Rd Morwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight people attended today, 10 March 2014 (as at 1630hrs) One Health check <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite - 4,829 registrations of Morwell residents to date (as at 1600hrs - please note that some duplicate entries have been detected and this is the accurate figure following data cleansing) Cumulative data is inclusive of closed centers. Red Cross staff are also present at the DHS respite centre to provide Register.Find.Reunite services.
Recovery	<p>The 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>Recovery planning for the Morwell incident and other fires in the Gippsland region is well underway.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>The DHS Regional Commander has been attending daily media conferences at the Regional Control Centre.</p> <p>The preparation of recovery communications and community engagement plans continues.</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 Two people attended
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm Eight people attended
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*	45	\$30,500

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 **\$30,500**



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

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	58	2,520	\$1,272,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	8	637	\$611,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	17	46	\$39,500
			\$1,922,750

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Tuesday, 11 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn, Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management