



STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 17/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 20	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>This report is focussed on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley and the bushfires in East Gippsland. The East Gippsland, Goongerah-Deddick Trail fire was declared CONTAINED on Monday 10 March. The Hazelwood open cut mine fire was declared CONTROLLED on Monday 10 March. Remaining hot spots are being monitored and extinguished.</p> <p>At 13:30 today, the Chief Health Officer (CHO) lifted the advice for temporary relocation of 'at risk' groups in the southern parts of Morwell, advising that they can now plan to return to their homes and workplaces. This advice is based on an improvement in air quality as monitored by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and confirmation from the Fire Services Commissioner that the fire is contained. The EPA advised that they will continue to monitor the air quality in the Latrobe Valley for the next 12 months.</p>
Known impacts	Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>On Sunday 16 March 2014, 30 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre. As at COB Sunday 17 March 2014, there have been 2086 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014.</p> <p>Health services, GP's and Nurse on Call continue to manage any demand within existing resources.</p> <p>One DH staff was deployed to the Gippsland region to work in the Regional Health IMT.</p> <p><u>Ambulance Victoria</u> AV continues to support the LaTrobe Valley community during the Hazelwood Fire incident.</p> <p>Presentations at the CHAC have slowed significantly and resources downgraded accordingly. There remains a presence from 0800-2000 daily. The Level A PPE stand-by crews at the Hazelwood mine have been stood down as of 0800 18/3/14. Health monitoring of fire fighters still remains 24/7.</p> <p>The management structure remains along with the AEOC support. Resourcing will be reviewed again later this week.</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 17 March 2014 were 71 in the Gippsland region and eight at the State level.</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 take 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 for the event:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px 0;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Past 24hr activity up until 16:30 today</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total event activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td style="text-align: center;">329</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8,338</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td style="text-align: center;">98</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,748</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td style="text-align: center;">192</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,363</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td style="text-align: center;">143</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4,553</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,905</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation payments (first)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">677</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">394</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Relocation Payments</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>DHS has a fraud management process in place to assist in the prevention of funds being obtained inappropriately. Cases of possible inappropriate access to payments have been referred to Victoria Police for investigation. One further referral was made today.</p>		Past 24hr activity up until 16:30 today	Total event activity	Respite Calls	329	8,338	Relocation Calls	98	1,748	Appointments Made	192	6,363	Appointments Attended	143	4,553	Respite Payments	27	2,905	Relocation payments (first)	3	677	Second relocation payment	19	394	Third Relocation Payments	8	9	Payments Rejected	9	86	Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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 remains open; Greek Hall, 46 Elgin Street, Morwell. 143 appointments were attended today. <p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 person attended today, 17 March 2014 (as at 15:30) Current staff resources include DHS, Council, Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches. Red Cross operations in Morwell and Moe will be stood down from COB today. This centre will cease operations at COB today (17 March 2014). <p><u>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre, 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 people attended today, 17 March 2014 (as at 15:30) Currently staffed by DHS and Council <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite – 5,399 registrations of Morwell residents as at 15:30 17 March 2014.
Recovery	Recovery planning for the Morwell incident and other fires in the Gippsland region is well underway. The Community Engagement and the Economic Sub-Committees met today. The Regional Health IMT also met today to discuss transition to the Health Recovery Sub-Committee.
Communications / Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted media release and Q&A sheet for Premier's media event tomorrow in Morwell regarding clean-up package announcement Updated Recovery website and VERIL hotline regarding cessation of respite and relocation payments for Morwell Liaison with EMJPIC, Regional EMJPIC, and Latrobe City Council communications/media team
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 and continues to develop further community supports. Active planning is underway to transition to recovery. The recovery program has commenced.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees as at 15.30
Latrobe City	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Community Respite Centre	9am – 6pm 1 person attended
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm 18 people attended
Latrobe City	The Greek Hall 46 Elgin Street, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	143 appointments today
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	\$31,000

*Note: These figures have been corrected following an error in previous SitReps.

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland*	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		\$31,000



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE – Latrobe City (as at 1630 hrs)

	Payments made today	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (first payment)	27	2,905	\$1,452,500
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (second payment)	79	1,093	\$546,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (first payment)	3	677	\$649,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	19	394	\$382,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – third payment	8	9	\$8,750
TOTAL	136	5,078	\$3,093,500

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Wednesday, 19 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn, Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management

Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator