

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 19/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 21	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>On Monday 17 March 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 was based on an improvement in air quality and confirmation from the Fire Services Commissioner that the fire in the mine is contained. The EPA 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 Tuesday 18 March 2014, two clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre (CHAC). As at COB Tuesday 18 March 2014, there have been 2077 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>Residents of St Hiliary's aged care service have not yet been returned pending facility cleaning.</p> <p><i>*Please Note: Due to the inclusion of an incorrect figure in Monday's Situation Report regarding the number of clients attending the Community Health Assessment Centre, that report should have read: "On Sunday 16 March 2014, 11 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre." The total attendance figure (2,077) provided above is a corrected figure to account for this.</i></p> <p><u>Ambulance Victoria</u> Ambulance Victoria 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.</p> <p>AV are supporting the health monitoring of fire fighters 24/7. This and the fire fighting response is being reviewed over the coming weekend.</p> <p>The management structure remains along with the Ambulance Emergency Operations Centre support. Resourcing will be reviewed again later this week.</p>																											
Human Services Command	<p><u>Emergency management workforce</u> Assistance in the form of Respite and Relocation payments have now ceased in most cases. As a consequence, the need for deployments of DHS staff to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations has decreased significantly. DHS staffing numbers for Wednesday 19 March 2014 were 33 in the Gippsland region and six at the State level.</p> <p><u>Clients and services</u> DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored for any ongoing impacts.</p> <p><u>High level summary report</u> The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to take calls from the public seeking assistance with questions or queries relating to recovery.</p> <p><i>The following table contains a list of today's respite and relocation figures for the event:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Past 48hr activity up until 16:00 today</th> <th>Total event activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>162</td> <td>8,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>38</td> <td>1,786</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>0</td> <td>6,363</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>12</td> <td>4,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>4</td> <td>2,909</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments (second)</td> <td>6</td> <td>1,099</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments (first)</td> <td>2</td> <td>679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td>97</td> <td>491</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Past 48hr activity up until 16:00 today	Total event activity	Respite Calls	162	8,500	Relocation Calls	38	1,786	Appointments Made	0	6,363	Appointments Attended	12	4,565	Respite Payments	4	2,909	Respite Payments (second)	6	1,099	Relocation Payments (first)	2	679	Second relocation payment	97	491
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**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Third Relocation Payments	0	9
Special Circumstances	4	4
Payments Rejected	6	92
Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4

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. No further referrals were made today.

Relief (including relief partner agencies)	<p><u>Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre</u> The Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre at the Greek Hall in Morwell ceased operation at the close of business on Tuesday 18 March.</p> <p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u> The Moe Respite Centre ceased operation at the close of business on Monday 17 March.</p> <p><u>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre, 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell</u> 26 people attended up to 3:00pm today. Currently staffed by DHS and Council</p> <p><u>Outreach</u> The Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite. registration program relating to the Hazelwood Mine Fire incident concluded on Monday 17 March. The Victorian Council of Churches have completed outreach activity having used 71 outreach workers and visited 6,431 houses with Latrobe City Council across the duration of this incident.</p>
Recovery	<p><u>Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee met yesterday to review the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan, the sub-committee sub-plans and their terms of reference. The Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan, including funding submission for recovery activities, has been submitted to state level today. The Community Engagement Sub-committee met today to review the draft community engagement framework. <p><u>Gippsland Bushfire Recovery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gippsland Emergency (Bushfire) Recovery Committee met today to review the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Plan (Bushfires) and provide input for funding submission, which was submitted to state level today. The Gippsland Emergency (Bushfire) Recovery Committee Social Recovery Sub-committee has been established and met for the first time today. <p><u>Latrobe City Council Clean Up Program</u> Clean-up assistance for affected residents is now available through Latrobe City Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latrobe City Council Contact Centre registered 92 calls today (as at 4pm). Latrobe City Council report 45 requests have been raised for cleaning.
Communications / Public Information	Public Information Unit activity today has included content updates to the Recovery website and information hotline, input and advice to recovery communications planning for the Morwell fire, liaison with Latrobe City Council communications/media team and media monitoring and reporting.
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	The recovery program has commenced.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees as at 15.30
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm 26 people attended today (as at 3:00pm)
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	8am – 8pm

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE – Latrobe City (as at 1600 hrs)

	Payments made today	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (first payment)	4	2,909	\$1,454,500
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (second payment)	6	1,099	\$549,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (first payment)	2	679	\$651,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	97	491	\$479,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – third payment	0	9	\$8,750
Relocation – Special Circumstances	4	4	\$1,000
TOTAL	136	5,078	\$3,144,250

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Friday, 21 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn, Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management

Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator