

## STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 21/03/2014

<b>INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:</b>	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
<b>SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:</b>	# 22	<b>INCIDENT LEVEL:</b>	2

### SITUATION SUMMARY:

<b>Situation Summary</b>	<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.</p> <p>On Friday 21 March the northern batters of the Hazelwood open cut mine fire were declared 'safe'. This has been the critical fire area causing concern to the community. 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> <p>There has been additional fire activity across the state today, in Healesville in particular. Most of these fires are either contained or controlled. DHS clients and funded services are being monitored for any potential impacts.</p>
<b>Known impacts</b>	Nil

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

<b>Health</b>	<p>Numbers of people attending the Community Health Assessment Centre (CHAC) continue to be low, one referral occurred today. As at COB Thursday 20 March 2014, there have been 2092 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 member remains deployed to the Gippsland region to work in the Regional Health IMT.</p> <p>Residents of St Hilary's aged care service may return at the earliest mid next week.</p>																																							
<b>Human Services Command</b>	<p><u>Emergency management workforce</u> Assistance in the form of Respite and Relocation payments have now ceased, decreasing the need for deployments of DHS staff to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations. DHS staffing numbers for Wednesday 19 March 2014 were 21 in the Gippsland region and three at the State level.</p> <p><u>Clients and services</u> The impact on DHS funded services and DHS clients has been significantly reduced due to reduced numbers of staff being utilised.</p> <p><u>High level summary report</u> The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) has continued to take calls from the public seeking assistance with questions or queries relating to recovery. The hotline will have a recorded message from COB Friday 21 March until further notice.</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><b>Past 48hr activity up until 16:30 today</b></th> <th><b>Total event activity</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Respite Calls</b></td> <td>35</td> <td>8,535</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Relocation Calls</b></td> <td>11</td> <td>1,797</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appointments Made</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>6,363</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appointments Attended</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>4,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Respite Payments</b></td> <td>1</td> <td>2,910</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Respite Payments (second)</b></td> <td>1</td> <td>1,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Relocation Payments (first)</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>679</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Second relocation payment</b></td> <td>5</td> <td>496</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Third Relocation Payments</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Special Circumstances</b></td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Payments Rejected</b></td> <td>3</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Accommodation arranged by DHS</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>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.</p>		<b>Past 48hr activity up until 16:30 today</b>	<b>Total event activity</b>	<b>Respite Calls</b>	35	8,535	<b>Relocation Calls</b>	11	1,797	<b>Appointments Made</b>	0	6,363	<b>Appointments Attended</b>	0	4,565	<b>Respite Payments</b>	1	2,910	<b>Respite Payments (second)</b>	1	1,100	<b>Relocation Payments (first)</b>	0	679	<b>Second relocation payment</b>	5	496	<b>Third Relocation Payments</b>	0	9	<b>Special Circumstances</b>	1	5	<b>Payments Rejected</b>	3	95	<b>Accommodation arranged by DHS</b>	0	4
	<b>Past 48hr activity up until 16:30 today</b>	<b>Total event activity</b>																																						
<b>Respite Calls</b>	35	8,535																																						
<b>Relocation Calls</b>	11	1,797																																						
<b>Appointments Made</b>	0	6,363																																						
<b>Appointments Attended</b>	0	4,565																																						
<b>Respite Payments</b>	1	2,910																																						
<b>Respite Payments (second)</b>	1	1,100																																						
<b>Relocation Payments (first)</b>	0	679																																						
<b>Second relocation payment</b>	5	496																																						
<b>Third Relocation Payments</b>	0	9																																						
<b>Special Circumstances</b>	1	5																																						
<b>Payments Rejected</b>	3	95																																						
<b>Accommodation arranged by DHS</b>	0	4																																						

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Relief (including relief partner agencies)	<u>Outreach</u> The Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite. registration program relating to the Hazelwood Mine Fire incident concluded on Monday 17 March. The total number of registrations for this event was 5,398.
Recovery	<p><u>Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan, including funding submission for recovery activities, was submitted to state level on Wednesday 19 March.</li> <li>The Community Engagement Sub-committee met on Wednesday 19 March to review the draft community engagement framework.</li> </ul> <p><u>Gippsland Bushfire Recovery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gippsland Emergency (Bushfire) Recovery Committee met on Wednesday 19 March to review the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Plan (Bushfires) and provide input for funding submission, which was submitted to state level on Wednesday 19 March.</li> <li>The Gippsland Emergency (Bushfire) Recovery Committee Social Recovery Sub-committee has been established and met on Wednesday 19 March.</li> </ul> <p><u>Latrobe City Council Clean Up Program</u> Clean-up assistance for affected residents is available through Latrobe City Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The clean up program has been officially launched today.</li> <li>Latrobe City Council Contact Centre registered 112 calls for yesterday and today (as at 4.30pm).</li> </ul>
Communications / Public Information	Public Information Unit activities today have included: content updates to the Recovery website and information hotline, liaison with Latrobe City Council communications/media team, and ongoing media monitoring and reporting.
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

### ISSUES:

Issue	Nil to report.
Action Taken	

### 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 21 people attended (as at 4.30pm)
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	8am – 8pm Hours from 10am – 6pm from Saturday 22 March

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE EAST GIPPSLAND FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland*	46	\$31,500

\*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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$31,500</b>

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

	Payments made today and yesterday	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (first payment)	1	2,910	\$1,455,000
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (second payment)	1	1,100	\$550,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (first payment)	2	679	\$651,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	5	496	\$484,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – third payment	0	9	\$8,750
Relocation – Special Circumstances	1	5	\$1,250

**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**



<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,199</b>	<b>\$3,150,750</b>
--------------	-----------	--------------	--------------------

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

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

**Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Sunday, 23 March 2014 at 1800hrs**

*Endorsed by:*

*Kim O'Shaughnessy, A/Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management*

*Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator*