

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 24/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 23	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 last of the significant East Gippsland fires, the Goongerah-Deddick Trail, as well as the Hazelwood open cut mine fire, are both now considered to be CONTROLLED.</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>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>
Known impacts	Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>Numbers of people attending the Community Health Assessment Centre (CHAC) continue to be low. As at COB Sunday 23 March 2014, there have been 2099 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>Residents of St Hilary's aged care service may return at the earliest mid next week.</p>																																							
Human Services Command	<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 Monday 24 March 2014 were six in the Gippsland region and four 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 number has now reverted to a recorded message providing information to callers. This occurred as of close of business Friday 21 March.</p> <p><i>The following table contains an updated list of respite and relocation figures for the Hazelwood mine fire:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Activity since Friday's Situation Report, up until 16:30 today</th> <th>Total event activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>42</td> <td>8,577</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>16</td> <td>1,813</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>0</td> <td>6,363</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>0</td> <td>4,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>0</td> <td>2,910</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments (second)</td> <td>0</td> <td>1,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments (first)</td> <td>0</td> <td>679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td>0</td> <td>496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Relocation Payments</td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Circumstances</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td>0</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</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>		Activity since Friday's Situation Report, up until 16:30 today	Total event activity	Respite Calls	42	8,577	Relocation Calls	16	1,813	Appointments Made	0	6,363	Appointments Attended	0	4,565	Respite Payments	0	2,910	Respite Payments (second)	0	1,100	Relocation Payments (first)	0	679	Second relocation payment	0	496	Third Relocation Payments	0	9	Special Circumstances	0	5	Payments Rejected	0	95	Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4
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Relief (including relief partner agencies)	Nil significant to report.																																							

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Recovery	<p>Recovery committees and sub-committees continue to meet to progress recovery for affected communities.</p> <p><u>Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community engagement planning meeting was held today. • The Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee will meet tomorrow. <p><u>Latrobe City Council Clean Up Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean-up assistance for affected residents is available through Latrobe City Council. • There are 650 Home and Community Care clients and work will begin today to complete assisted cleaning. <p>Since 20 March 2014, the following assistance has been provided (as of 1700 hours today):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 166 calls taken on 1800 clean up assistance line • 174 self clean-up kits dispensed • 186 laundry vouchers dispensed • 267 car wash vouchers dispensed
Communications / Public Information	Public Information Unit activities today have included media monitoring (radio, print, TV and online), further input into Latrobe City Council's community engagement planning and liaison with other government media and communications officers through the Emergency Management joint Public Information Committee.
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 1700
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell (Clean-up program operates from this location)	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm 68 people attended today
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	10am – 6pm

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
GRAND TOTAL		\$31,500



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE – Latrobe City (as at 1700 hrs)

	Payments made since Friday's H&HS EM Situation Report	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (first payment)	0	2,910	\$1,455,000
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (second payment)	0	1,100	\$550,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (first payment)	0	679	\$651,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment	0	496	\$484,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – third payment	0	9	\$8,750
Relocation – Special Circumstances	0	5	\$1,250
TOTAL	0	5,199	\$3,150,750

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Wednesday, 26 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

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

Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator