

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 27/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material and Other Incidents</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 4	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:	
Situation Summary	<p>The Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley remains a key priority. Multiple emergency and government agencies are managing the risks generated by this fire.</p> <p>EPA Victoria issued a high level smoke advisory for the Latrobe Valley for today as the community of Morwell and surrounding areas continue to be affected by smoke and ash.</p> <p>In East Gippsland three significant bushfires are not yet under control (Goongerah-Deddick Trail, Club Terrace Cluster, Timbarra – Gil Groggin). Fire activity has subsided and there is currently no threat to community.</p> <p>Recovery planning is now well underway in East Gippsland, the Grampians, Hume, Loddon-Mallee and North and West Metropolitan regions for the fires in January and February 2014.</p>
Known impacts	The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to affect the Morwell community.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:	
Health Command/Coordination	<p>Ambulance Victoria (AV) continues to support the Latrobe Valley community and the Emergency Service Organisations combating the fire emergencies in Gippsland.</p> <p>There have been 509 clients attend the Community Health Assessment Centre since opening on 21 February 2014. 91 of these have been referred to other health services. As at 1200hrs today, 66 clients have attended the centre. The Minister for Health today announced the expansion of the centre which will include more floor space to accommodate visitors and extra paramedics and nurses to provide assessments more quickly.</p> <p>Latrobe Regional Hospital presentations for yesterday have not increased.</p> <p>The majority of General Practices are recording either no change or very moderate increases in respiratory presentations and practices are coping.</p> <p>The Nurse on Call (NoC) service is being actively promoted within the community, through Health Centres, General Practitioners and at the Community Health Assessment Centre. A small increase in demand has been noted.</p> <p>Health monitoring of fire-fighters is in place at Hazelwood and in Delegate, NSW, supporting the Goongerah fire activity.</p>
Health Protection	<p>The Department of Health continues to monitor the results of the air quality reporting undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority. Community health advice continues to be revised and disseminated to inform the community and stakeholders. All official information can be accessed via: www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer (CHO) continues to undertake a range of media events and the daily media conference at the Traralgon ICC will continue for the remainder of the week.</p> <p>A number of Department of Health staff are being deployed from around the state to assist the Departments Regional Health Incident Management Team in Traralgon.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>DHS resources continue to be deployed to the Gippsland region to assist regional DHS emergency management operations in Morwell.</p> <p>DHS funded services and DHS clients have been contacted and are being provided with information on the current situation by the Morwell office.</p> <p>Latrobe City Council is establishing a community consultative community to receive input on respite and relief activities and community issues in general.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>The Department of Human Services and Latrobe City Council will open a Community Information and Recovery Centre in Morwell on Friday to provide support and information to Morwell residents in a local, air-conditioned environment. This centre will be supported by Latrobe City Council, Department of Human Services, Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and other key agencies.</p> <p>Approximately 140 people have accessed the Community Respite Centre in Moe for relief and information (26 today). Services on offer include psychosocial support (from Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches), fire information (from CFA and Victoria Police), health information (from Ambulance Victoria and EPA), child friendly spaces, food and fluids (tea, coffee and snacks). Arrangements are in place for the next seven days. Latrobe council are now providing a bus service to the respite centre, subject to demand.</p>

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	<p>As at 1700hrs the call centre managing appointments for Personal Hardship Respite Payments had received 383 calls for today and made a total of 256 appointments. A total of 1164 calls and 847 appointments have been made since Monday. Today a total of 89 appointments with affected members of the public were held at the Morwell DHS office.</p> <p>Red Cross has activated on-line registration for Register.Find.Reunite. People planning to leave Morwell overnight or longer are encouraged to register.</p> <p>Efforts are being made to obtain funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to provide a range of community respite activities for Morwell residents.</p> <p>A free bus service will be available for Morwell residents to attend the Boolarra Folk Festival on Saturday 1 March as an opportunity to take respite from the area.</p>
Recovery	DHS and partner agencies continue to support affected communities through community meetings and outreach programs in conjunction with local governments. Psycho-social issues are being identified and monitored.
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updating of all public communication channels (Recovery website, VERIL hotline, State Control Centre Media Messages), • preparation of content for media releases, • liaison with partner agencies and media organisations, • participation in the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee, • ongoing media monitoring (electronic, print and online) • supporting the communications team deployed to Traralgon.
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil significant for this report.
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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRE

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Information and referral service	9.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street, Kilmore	Information and referral service	9.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Grampians Northern Grampians Shire Council	Grampians Community Health Centre (Shack) Patrick Street, Stawell	Recovery	9am – 5pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Respite	9am – 7pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	Cumulative total of attendees: 140 9am – 6pm from Friday 28 February.
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment	8am – 8pm

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA*	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	186	\$199,500
Hume - Wallan	491	\$507,500
Hume - Kilmore	265	\$261,750
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	57	\$46,600
Gippsland – Wellington	6	\$5,750
Gippsland – East Gippsland	37	\$29,500
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	4	\$2,250
Eastern Metro - Manningham	5	\$5,750
North West Metro – Hume City Council	21	\$24,000
Sum Total	1,119	\$1,132,100

Region and LGA*	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Hume - Wallan	10	\$23,750

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Hume - Kilmore	9	\$27,000
Hume – Numurkah	1	\$2,530
Gippsland – Wellington	1	\$3,000
North West Metro – City of Hume	1	\$3,000
Sum Total	22	\$59,280
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,191,380

**Note: Figures represent the region and LGA in which the emergency relief or re-establishment payment was issued. This does not always correlate with the location of recipients' principal place of residence.*

Personal Hardship Respite Payments

Region and LGA	Number Payments	Total
Gippsland - Latrobe	245	\$124,750
GRAND TOTAL		\$124,750

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Bonang – Bonang Hall, East Gippsland Shire	2 March 2014	12.30pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Friday 28 February 2014 at 6.00pm

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management

Julian Meagher: State Health Coordinator