

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 28/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material and Other Incidents</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 5	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>This afternoon an advice was issued for 'at risk' people who live in the southern Morwell area near the mine to relocate away from the smoke. Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Rosemary Lester, identified 'at risk' individuals as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pregnant women • residents aged 65 and over • pre-schol children (under 5 – including babies and infants) • anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions <p>Help is available for those who are unable to organise suitable accommodation or transport for themselves. Individuals in these circumstances are being advised to ring DHS to make an appointment to speak with a DHS officer in person at one of four locations in Morwell.</p> <p>In East Gippsland two significant bushfires are not yet under control (Goongerah-Deddick Trail and 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 fires in Gippsland.</p> <p>There have been 886 clients attend the Community Health Assessment Centre since opening on 21 February 2014. 117 of these have been referred to other health services. As at 1200hrs today, 74 clients have attended the centre.</p> <p>Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, Bapcare St Hilary's Community Aged Care facility has decided to re locate their residents. The relocation will occur on Saturday 01 March with support from Ambulance Victoria.</p> <p>Latrobe Regional Hospital presentations are within normal limits. Some General Practices are experiencing increased demand, but 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>
Health Protection	<p>The Chief Health Officer has today advised people aged over 65, pre-school aged children, pregnant women and anyone with a pre-existing heart or lung condition living or working in Morwell South to consider temporary relocation because of the Hazelwood mine fire.</p> <p>A community fact sheet as been updated to include this new advice and is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer, Premier, Chief Commissioner of Police, and the Fire Services Commissioner attended a media conference at the Traralgon ICC today announcing the temporary relocation advice for at risk groups of the Morwell South community.</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>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>DHS and Latrobe City Council have opened a Community Information and Recovery Centre in Morwell to provide support and information to Morwell residents in a local, air-conditioned environment. This centre is supported by Latrobe City Council, DHS, Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and other key agencies. Thirty people attended today.</p> <p>Approximately 150 people have accessed the Community Respite Centre in Moe for relief and information (10 today). Services on offer include psychosocial support (from Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches), fire</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	<p>information (from CFA and Victoria Police), health information (from Ambulance Victoria and EPA), child friendly spaces, food and fluids (tea, coffee and snacks). Latrobe council are providing a bus service to the respite centre, subject to demand.</p> <p>Additional locations have now been activated to cater for individuals making an appointment to meet with a DHS officer in response to today's announcement regarding relocation.</p> <p>As at 1900hrs today the call centre managing appointments for Personal Hardship Respite Payments and Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments had received 723 calls for the day. Of these, 163 were for relocation assistance and 560 were for respite.</p> <p>As at 1620hrs today, a total of 54 appointments with affected members of the public had been held at the Morwell DHS office for the issuing of Personal Hardship Respite Payments.</p> <p>As at 1620hrs today, no Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment appointments or payments had been made.</p> <p>As at 1620hrs today, no members of the community had approached the Department of Human Services for assistance with finding accommodation for the purposes of relocation.</p> <p>Red Cross has activated on-line registration for Register.Find.Reunite. People planning to relocate are being encouraged to register.</p> <p>A free bus service remains 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 continue to be identified and monitored.
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing Q&As, web copy and fact sheets about relocation • participation in the Health Incident Management Team • participation in the EMJPIC Teleconference • updating content on the Department of Health and Recovery websites, as well as the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line • media monitoring across multiple channels • liaising with Health and Human Services Communications staff in Morwell • briefing and deploying Communications staff to Gippsland Regional Emergency Operations Centre.
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

ISSUES:

Issue	Diminished availability of accommodation in Morwell area.
Action Taken	The Gippsland Regional Relief Plan is being updated, including strategies to identify alternate sources of accommodation.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

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	Community Respite Centre Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Respite	9am – 7pm Cumulative total of attendees: 150
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre and Appointment location for Personal hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	9am – 6pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	DHS Office 71—1 Hazelwood Road, Morwell	Appointment location for Personal hardship	1pm – 9pm

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

		Voluntary Relocation Payment	
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Commercial Road Primary School, Morwell	Appointment location for Personal hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment	1pm – 9pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell	Appointment location for Personal hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment	1pm – 9pm
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
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	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Gippsland - Latrobe	53	298	\$151,250
		GRAND TOTAL	\$151,250

Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments

Region and LGA	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Gippsland - Latrobe	Nil	Nil	\$0
		GRAND TOTAL	\$0

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 Saturday 1 March 2014 at 6.00pm

Endorsed by:

Alan Hall: State Recovery Coordinator

Julian Meagher: State Health Coordinator