

**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**
**STATE SITUATION REPORT**
**1800 hrs, 2/03/2014**

<b>INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:</b>	Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material and Other Incidents		
<b>SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:</b>	<b># 7</b>	<b>INCIDENT LEVEL:</b>	<b>2</b>

**SITUATION SUMMARY:**

Situation Summary	<p>The Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley remains a key priority. Fire crews have made significant progress on the fire in the last 24 hours with infra-red line scans showing reductions in active fire.</p> <p>On Friday 28 Feb 14, a recommendation was issued for 'at risk' people who live or work in the South Morwell area to relocate away from near the open cut mine. Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Rosemary Lester, identified 'at risk' individuals as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pregnant women</li> <li>• residents aged 65 and over</li> <li>• pre-school children (under 5 – including babies and infants)</li> <li>• anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions</li> </ul> <p>Individuals 'at risk' are being encouraged to organise their own accommodation and transport if they have the means to do so. Help is available however for those who are unable to organise suitable accommodation or transport for themselves. Individuals in these circumstances are being advised to contact the Department of Human Services hotline to make an appointment to speak with a DHS officer in person at one of three locations in Morwell.</p> <p>Residents in other parts of Morwell are still being encouraged to periodically take respite from the smoke.</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>
Known impacts	The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to affect the Morwell community.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

Health Command/Coordination	A total of 167 clients presented at the Community Health Assessment Centre in Morwell on 01 March 2014.																																
Health Protection	<p>The Chief Health Officer continues to advise that people aged over 65, children under school age (under 5), pregnant women and anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions living or working in Morwell South should consider temporary relocation because of the Hazelwood mine fire.</p> <p>A community fact sheet as been updated and is available at <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood">www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood</a>.</p>																																
Human Services Command	<p>Additional DHS resources deployed to Gippsland remain high to assist with regional emergency management operations in Morwell. Impacts on DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored and regular contact is being maintained as required.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance. The following tables summarise this activity.</p> <p><b>Respite and Relocation calls received</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Monday 24/2</th> <th>Tuesday 25/2</th> <th>Wednesday 26/2</th> <th>Thursday 27/2</th> <th>Friday 28/2</th> <th>Saturday* 1/3</th> <th>Sunday** 2/3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Calls</td> <td>79</td> <td>338</td> <td>364</td> <td>383</td> <td>762</td> <td>404</td> <td>203</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments made</td> <td>23</td> <td>284</td> <td>284</td> <td>256</td> <td>528</td> <td>322</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conversion rate</td> <td>29%</td> <td>84%</td> <td>78%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>69%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Table may include updated figures for yesterday due to additional data being received after SitRep was published. ** As at 2.15pm today</p> <p><b>EM Workforce</b></p> <p>There are 83 DHS and DH staff working across the Gippsland region dedicated to the response to this incident. Roles are being performed in the call centre, Respite and Relocation Assistance Centres and regional emergency operations centres. Staff in central office and other Divisions are also working in support by providing coordination, deployment, reporting and information management functions.</p>		Monday 24/2	Tuesday 25/2	Wednesday 26/2	Thursday 27/2	Friday 28/2	Saturday* 1/3	Sunday** 2/3	Calls	79	338	364	383	762	404	203	Appointments made	23	284	284	256	528	322	160	Conversion rate	29%	84%	78%	67%	69%	80%	79%
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Relief (inc Red Cross)	The Community respite Centre in Moe remains open from 9am – 6pm. Approximately 168 people have accessed the centre relief and information (11 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).																																

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
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	<p>DHS and Latrobe City Council continue to operate a Community Information and Recovery Centre in Morwell to provide support and information to residents in a local, air-conditioned environment. Latrobe City Council, DHS, Red Cross, Ambulance Victoria and other key agencies are in attendance. Eleven people attended today as at 1415hrs.</p> <p>As at 1415hrs today, 143 appointments with affected members of the public have been conducted for the issuing of Personal Hardship Respite and Relocation Payments. To date DHS has only arranged accommodation for one member of the community.</p> <p>Upon the direction of VicPol Red Cross has activated on-line registration for Register.Find.Reunite. People planning to relocate are being encouraged to register. As at 1620hrs, a total of 1,315 people have registered.</p> <p>Red Cross has doorknocked approximately 70% of South Morwell to assess relocation plans and support needs.</p>
Recovery	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.
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in EMJPIC teleconference</li> <li>• media coaching and strategy discussion for DHS spokesperson</li> <li>• active media monitoring, especially re Morwell public rally</li> <li>• updating of Recovery website, VERIL call centre scripts and SCC Media lines</li> <li>• updating key DHS messages on centre names and roles</li> <li>• liaison with communications officers working in Gippsland REOC</li> <li>• editing DHS call centre draft script</li> </ul>
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	DHS has established respite and relocation assistance, and is proactively looking at a range of community supports.

**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 – 6pm  Cumulative total of attendees: 168
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Department of Human Services Office 9-11 Hazelwood Road, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Commercial Road Primary School, Commercial Road, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9pm – 6pm
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
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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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	39	\$30,500
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
<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>\$1,133,100</b>

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
<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$59,280</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,192,380</b>

\*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	100	579	\$289,500
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$289,500</b>

### Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments

Region and LGA	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Gippsland - Latrobe	43	161	\$148,750
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$148,750</b>

### Community Meetings

Location	Date	Time

**Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Monday 3 March 2014 at 6.00pm**

**Endorsed by:**

**Alan Hall: State Recovery Coordinator**

**Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator**