

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 04/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material and Other Incidents		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 9	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>The Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley remains a key priority.</p> <p>On Friday 28 Feb 2014, 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"> • pregnant women • residents aged 65 and over • pre-school children (under 5 – including babies and infants) • anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions. <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). Recent rainfall has resulted in quieter fire behaviour for both of these fires.</p>
Known impacts	The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to affect the Morwell community.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>On Monday 03 March 2014, 153 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre. There have been 1509 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014.</p> <p>Overall presentations to Latrobe Regional Hospital are consistent with usual presentation numbers.</p> <p>The Nurse on Call (NoC) service has noted a small increase in demand and continues to be being actively promoted within the community.</p> <p>A Chief Health Officer (CHO) Advisory has been updated to incorporate all key messages and current health advice. This is available on the CHO website www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer/advisories.</p> <p>All relevant public health advice for this incident is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer has provided formal advice to the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the use of air purifiers by the community.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer is attending a meeting today with the Australian Medical Association (AMA).</p>																																										
Human Services Command	<p>A number of DHS staff continue to be deployed to Gippsland 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 DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance. The following table summarise this activity.</p> <p>Respite and Relocation calls received</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Thursday 27/02</th> <th>Friday 28/02</th> <th>Saturday 01/03</th> <th>Sunday 02/03</th> <th>Monday* 03/03</th> <th>Tuesday** 04/03</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>383</td> <td>579</td> <td>267</td> <td>266</td> <td>803</td> <td>359 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>-</td> <td>183</td> <td>137</td> <td>103</td> <td>231</td> <td>77 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Calls</td> <td>383</td> <td>762</td> <td>404</td> <td>369</td> <td>1034</td> <td>436 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments made</td> <td>256</td> <td>528</td> <td>322</td> <td>235</td> <td>548</td> <td>223 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conversion rate</td> <td>67%</td> <td>69%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>64%</td> <td>53%</td> <td>51% *</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Table may include updated figures for yesterday due to additional data being received after yesterday's SitRep was published.</i></p> <p><i>** As at 1415 hrs today</i></p>		Thursday 27/02	Friday 28/02	Saturday 01/03	Sunday 02/03	Monday* 03/03	Tuesday** 04/03	Respite Calls	383	579	267	266	803	359 *	Relocation Calls	-	183	137	103	231	77 *	Total Calls	383	762	404	369	1034	436 *	Appointments made	256	528	322	235	548	223 *	Conversion rate	67%	69%	80%	64%	53%	51% *
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	<p>EM Workforce Staffing numbers deployed for DH and DHS for Tuesday 4 March 2014 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 DH staff at regional level in Gippsland and 20 DH staff at state level - 85 DHS staff at regional level in Gippsland and 12 DHS staff at state level.
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>The Community Respite Centre in Moe remains open from 9am – 6pm daily. Approximately 186 people have accessed the centre (8 today as at 2:15pm). The centre offers current information on the situation, health and environmental fact sheets, psychosocial support, and food and fluids (tea, coffee biscuits).</p> <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. As at 1415hrs today, 12 people had attended.</p> <p>As at 1415hrs today, 225 appointments with affected members of the public have been conducted for the issuing of Personal Hardship Respite and Relocation Payments.</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. A total of 2,152 people have registered.</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"> • participation in EMJPIC teleconference • updating of Recovery website, VERIL call centre scripts and SCC Media lines • liaising with DEPI, REOC, Red Cross and DPC social media task force on communication issues • monitoring social media and traditional media
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	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Community Respite Centre	9am – 6pm
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 Centre	8am – 8pm

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA*	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	186	\$199,500
Hume – Mitchell**	802	\$818,250
Hume – Moira (previously reported as Numurkah)	57	\$46,600
Gippsland – Wellington	6	\$5,750
Gippsland – East Gippsland	40	\$31,500
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	1,122	\$1,134,100

Region and LGA*	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Hume – Mitchell**	19	\$50,750
Hume – Moira (previously reported as 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		\$1,193,380

* 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.

** Note: this data was previously reported under the locations of the relief centres processing the applications, including Wallan, Kilmore and Seymour.

Personal Hardship Respite Payments

Region and LGA	Today's Payments*	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Gippsland – Latrobe	205	1,089	\$628,000
Sum Total			\$628,000

Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments

Region and LGA	Today's Payments*	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Gippsland – Latrobe	46	353	\$389,750
Sum Total			\$389,750
GRAND TOTAL			\$1,017,750

* Note: as at 1415hrs today

Community Meetings

Location	Date	Time
Morwell Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre is holding informal weekly community meetings with CFA, Latrobe City Council and EPA, to provide updates on progress of the fire and information about DHS respite and relocation assistance.	Weekly	N/A

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Alan Hall: State Recovery Coordinator

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator