

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 20/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 13	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>There are currently two significant incidents GOING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Morwell – Hazelwood Mine fire/Hazardous Material incident: The fire has a number of complexities and is likely to continue for some weeks. East Gippsland bushfires: Three bushfires (Goongerah-Deddic Trail, Club Terrace-Goolengook River, Timbarra – Gil Groggin) continue to burn and will continue into the coming days and weeks. An Emergency Warning and Standard Emergency Warning System was issued today for Goongerah-Deddic Trail.
Known impacts	<p>The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to be problematic for the Morwell community.</p> <p>Forty-nine (49) houses have been confirmed destroyed since Sunday 9 February 2014 resulting from fire. It is believed hundreds of cattle and thousands of sheep, along with pasture, feed and fencing have also been lost.</p>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	<p>Ambulance Victoria continues to focus on the Gippsland Fires. Crews continue to provide ongoing support for emergency workers.</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria has an Area of Operations Health Commander supported by a Liaison Officer in the Hazelwood ICC. Specialist Personal Protective Equipment trained Paramedics are on stand-by, and there are Paramedics providing health monitoring for fire-fighters. Multiple health assessments are occurring and nil transports in the last 24 hours reported. Paramedics are engaged in a variety of Community Support forums (Moe Respite Centre, Morwell Community Health Assessment Centre, Community Engagement).</p> <p>Additional resources are based in Delegate (NSW) and are supported by a Health Commander who is reporting into the Orbost ICC.</p> <p>A Community Health Assessment Centre is being established at the Ambulance Victoria regional office at 2 Saskia Way, Morwell from tomorrow. It will operate from 8:00am to 8:00pm. Paramedics and nurses will provide health information and advice as well as an assessment service for people concerned about their health. Those requiring medical attention will be referred to doctors or other health professionals if appropriate. Latrobe Regional Hospital has been advised of the possible referrals. A joint media release will be issued by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health.</p> <p>Gippsland Medicare Local has been advised to undertake a general practice survey for assessment of presentations and access issues.</p>
Health Protection	<p>A communication strategy will be implemented at the Health Assessment Centre. This will include appropriate signage, text for live reads and the distribution of coal ash and smoke fact sheets.</p> <p>The Department continues to communicate via local media with a full page advertisement in the LaTrobe Valley Express and information via letterbox drop. Fact sheets are being prepared on cleaning up a smoke and ash affected home and rainwater tanks specifically for the coal mine fire in the Latrobe Valley. These will be made available on the Chief Health Officer's website.</p> <p>The Department of Health State Incident Action Plan is currently being finalised. This plan is specific to the health impacts of the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine Fires.</p> <p>Schools in Morwell continue to be reviewed for possible relocation.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>All relief centres have now transitioned to recovery centres. Financial assistance payments officers are present to provide emergency relief and re-establishment payments as required. Relief payments will continue to be assessed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The Community Respite Centre opened again in Moe today. Approximately 15 people attended seeking respite. Services on offer included 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).</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>Relief agencies are continuing to provide relief support services as required. A number of relief agencies are in</p>

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	attendance at the Moe community respite centre and are available to assist with relief needs as required. Relief planning continues for the potential relocation of the broader community in parts of Morwell if deemed necessary.
Recovery	The State Crisis and Resilience '2014 Bushfires - State Recovery Coordination Team' will meet on Friday 21 February 2014 to continue to coordinate the recovery for the January and February 2014 fires. DHS and partner agencies continue to support affected communities at recovery centres, community meetings, and through outreach programs in conjunction with local governments. Psycho-social issues are being identified and monitored. DHS staff continue to attend community meetings and monitor social media so that priority issues raised by communities are noted and responded to. Hume has confirmed a DHS Recovery Manager will be in the position for six months, and a Regional Recovery Plan has been drafted.
Communications / Public Information	The Public Information Unit have been updating web content, distributing updated information regarding the Respite centre and Re-establishment payments, preparing Possible Parliamentary Questions, updating scripts for call centres and liaising across government regarding various communications tasks.
Business Continuity	Nil to report

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil to report
Actions taken	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRE

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Health Centre, Patrick Street, Stawell	Recovery	9am – 5 pm (Mon – Fri)
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Recovery	9am – 5pm (Mon – Fri) 9am – 1pm (Sat – Sun)
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street, Kilmore	Recovery	9am – 5pm (Mon – Fri) 9am – 1pm (Sat – Sun)
Loddon Mallee Region Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Romsey Community Hub, 96–100 Main Road Romsey	Recovery	9am – 12pm
Loddon Mallee Region Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Darraweit Guim Town Hall Bolinda Darraweit Road	Recovery	12pm – 5 pm
Gippsland LaTrobe City Council	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Respite	9am – 7pm
Gippsland LaTrobe City Council	Ambulance Victoria 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	176	\$188,250
Hume - Wallan	491	\$507,500
Hume - Kilmore	265	\$261,750
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	57	\$46,600
Hume - Mitchell Shire	1	\$1,000
Gippsland – Wellington	6	\$5,750
Gippsland – East Gippsland	31	\$23,250
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	2	\$1,750
Eastern Metro - Manningham	5	\$5,750
North West Metro – Hume City Council	21	\$24,000
Sum Total	1,102	\$1,115,100

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

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North West Metro – City of Hume	1	\$3,000
Sum Total	20	\$53,280
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,165,880

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Manningham – location TBC	24 February 2014	TBC
Hindmarsh Shire – Rainbow Community Hall	24 February 2014	5:00pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Friday 21 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Vanessa Coli: State Health Coordinator