

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 17/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 10	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>There are currently two significant incidents GOING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morwell – Hernes Oak bushfire and the Hazelwood and Yallourn Mines fire – The fire has a number of complexities that are being dealt with, being fire response issues, air quality issues, Health impacts and information messaging to the community. 2. East Gippsland bushfires – Multiple fires continue to burn and will continue into the coming days and weeks. Some sections of the Bonang Highway are expected to be opened in the coming days. <p>While there is some rain expected it is not expected to have a significant impact on current fires.</p> <p>The fires at Hazelwood and Yallourn open cut coal mines are producing smoke and also carbon monoxide due to the incomplete burning of the coal. There is a health management plan in place.</p> <p>Recovery activities are ongoing in the Grampians region and are now underway in the recently affected communities.</p>
Known impacts	<p>The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to be problematic for Morwell.</p> <p>Forty-five (45) houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday 8 February 2014. It is believed hundreds of cattle and thousands of sheep, along with pasture and feed have also been lost in these fires.</p>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	Nothing significant to report.
Health Protection	<p>Smoke persists in the atmosphere and is being monitored by Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria. A high level bushfire smoke advisory message has been issued. Air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken by the EPA near fire affected areas with a particular focus on extra resources within the Latrobe Valley.</p> <p>Revised key messages relating to Health and Bushfires continue to be included in the whole of government media strategy which includes print media and radio. An information sheet has been prepared for the Latrobe Valley community on 'Smoke and your health' with specific advice on protecting your health. The Chief Health Officer Alert on 'High level smoke warning for Latrobe Valley' has been reissued today. The Chief Health Officer continues to speak to key media throughout metro and regional Victoria in relation to the health affects of bushfire smoke.</p> <p>The Department of Health is liaising with the regions to provide health protection advice to the Regional Incident level.</p> <p>There are no water quality or drinking water supply issues in fire affected areas except for Romsey where a restriction on use has been applied while repairs are effected. The Department of Health continues to liaise with water authorities.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been present at recovery centres over the weekend, providing emergency relief and emergency re-establishment payments, as required.</p> <p>All relief centres have transitioned to recovery centres. Relief payments will continue to be assessed, but are not expected to be significant in number beyond current levels.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>No relief centres remain open.</p> <p>Relief planning is underway for the potential relocation / evacuation of the Morwell area that may be affected by the mine fire. A senior planning officer has been deployed from central office to Traralgon tonight to assist in completing a Regional Relief Plan should relocations of people occur.</p> <p>Relief agencies are continuing to provide relief support, outreach and personal support services as required. Red Cross Volunteers also continue to provide food and water at the Hazelwood staging ground. Red Cross has provided between 250 and 550 meals per sitting.</p>
Recovery	<p>The State Crisis and Resilience '2014 Bushfires - State Recovery Coordination Team' met on Friday 14/2/14 and agreed to continue to meet weekly to coordinate the recovery for the January and February 2014 fires.</p> <p>DHS and partner agencies continue to support affected communities at recovery centres, community meetings, and through outreach programs. Outreach programs and psychosocial support are being provided in conjunction with local governments.</p> <p>DHS staff are attending community meetings and monitoring social media so that priority issues raised by community are noted and responded to.</p> <p>A Deputy Incident Controller – Relief and Recovery has been deployed to the Orbost Incident Control Centre to assist with recovery planning.</p>

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Communications / Public Information	There are ongoing updates to relief and recovery content on www.recovery.vic.gov.au , the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line and social media messaging. Health and Human Services continues to monitor key issues and health issues associated with the Hazelwood mine fires and collaborate with the Whole of Victorian Government Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee. There has also been input into the Whole of Victorian Government public information campaign in Latrobe Valley, including radio and print advertising.
Business Continuity	Hume Region is relying on the assistance of other regions to support their operations. Health and Human Services State Operations is continuing to assist in organising the deployment of staff from central office and other areas to provide support to the Hume region.

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil to report
-------	---------------

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY CENTRES

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Centre, Stawell	Recovery	Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Recovery	9am – 5pm daily
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street	Recovery	9am – 5pm daily
Hume Moirra Shire Council	36 Melville Street, Numurkah	Recovery	10am - 4pm Closing COB Tuesday 18/02/2014
Loddon Mallee Region Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Romsey Community Hub, 96-100 Main Road Romsey	Recovery	10am – 5pm
Loddon Mallee Region Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Darraweit Guim Town Hall Bolinda Darraweit Road	Recovery	10am – 5 pm

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	147	\$159,750
Hume - Wallan	465	\$481,500
Hume - Kilmore	222	\$216,250
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	50	\$41,350
Hume - Mitchell Shire	1	\$1,000
Gippsland – Wellington	4	\$4,250
Gippsland – East Gippsland	26	\$20,250
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	1	\$500
Eastern Metro - Manningham	4	\$4,500
North West Metro - Whittlesea	1	\$1,000
North West Metro – Hume City Council	18	\$19,750
Sum Total	986	\$999,600

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Hume - Wallan	9	\$20,650
Hume - Kilmore	8	\$24,000
Gippsland – Wellington	1	\$3,000
Sum Total	18	\$47,650
Grand Total		\$1,047,250

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Malmsbury Public Hall, Macedon Shire	17/2/2014	7:30pm
Manningham – Warrandyte CFA	17/02/2014	

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Tuesday 18 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator