

**STATE SITUATION REPORT**

**1800 hrs, 19/02/2014**

|                                   |                            |                        |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| <b>INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:</b> | <i>Fires February 2014</i> |                        |          |
| <b>SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:</b>   | <b># 12</b>                | <b>INCIDENT LEVEL:</b> | <b>2</b> |

**SITUATION SUMMARY:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Situation Summary | <p>There are currently two significant incidents GOING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Morwell – Hazelwood Mine fire – The fire is complex and is likely to go on for some weeks.</li> <li>2. East Gippsland bushfires – Multiple fires continue to burn and will continue into the coming days and weeks. Residents of Goongerah and Martins Creek continue to be escorted by emergency services back to their properties.</li> </ol> <p>While there is some rain expected it is not expected to have a significant impact on current fires.</p> <p>The fire at Hazelwood open cut coal mines continues to produce smoke that is impacting on air quality. While progress has been made to extinguish this fire, there are still at least several weeks of work ahead. A health management plan is in place.</p> <p>Recovery activities are ongoing in the Grampians region and other affected communities.</p> |
| Known impacts     | <p>The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to be problematic for the Morwell community.</p> <p>Forty-five (45) houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday 8 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 is continuing to support the Health Incident aspects of the fire emergency in the Latrobe Valley. There is an Area of Operations Health Commander in direct support of the incident, reporting to the State Health Commander. This role augments the Regional Health Commander in Gippsland and oversees an Incident Health Commander at the fire site.</p> <p>Today Ambulance Victoria has been asked to increase the support for Community Engagement. This includes Ambulance Victoria Paramedics in the Respite Centre at Moe, and a Community Health Assessment Centre in Morwell. Ambulance Victoria has also placed an additional Response resource in the Latrobe Valley for the next 5 days and continues to maintain an additional resource at Delegate (NSW) in support of the East Gippsland Fires.</p> <p>The Minister for Health, the Chief Health Officer and Ambulance Victoria are attending the opening of the Respite Centre established today at the Moe Town Hall. Ambulance Victoria will provide an ongoing presence on behalf of the department.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Ambulance Victoria are leading the establishment of a Health Assessment Centre to be located in the Ambulance Victoria regional office in Morwell. The centre will open this Friday 21 February operating 8am-8pm daily and will be staffed by paramedics and nurses.</p> <p>The Gippsland Region has collated information on Community Health Services General Practice capacity. The Department of Health has completed a survey of the 18 practices in Morwell, Traralgon, Moe and Churchill areas and there are no issues with an increase in patient presentation, or issues with waiting times. The department will continue to make contact and monitor as required.</p> <p>Latrobe Regional Hospital has not seen an increase in demand and patients are being seen in required times.</p> |
| Health Protection           | <p>The Chief Health Officer addressed the media today at Morwell in relation to the health effects of the smoke and ash from the brown coal fires.</p> <p>A fact sheet has been developed to inform the community of issues around smoke inhalation, carbon monoxide and brown coal ash. The fact sheet will be disseminated to the Hazelwood Incident Control Centre, via the DH website and will be distributed at the respite centre in Moe.</p> <p>Community liaison teams consisting of fire agencies and Ambulance Victoria are present at various locations in Morwell to provide support and information to the community.</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>A community respite centre was opened today in Moe where residents can seek temporary respite from the smokey conditions caused by the Morwell open-cut fire. It will remain open daily subject to local demand but plans are to open from 0900 to 1900 daily. Services offered by the respite centre 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). At this point, relief assistance in the form of financial support is not being offered. Minister Davis visited the respite centre this afternoon.</p>  |

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
|                                     | <p>Planning has identified DHS clients and services across all service streams in the potential impact area in Morwell. A total of 679 clients and 440 residences have been identified. Planning continues around strategies to manage the impact on these services if the situation changes.</p>  |
| Relief (inc Red Cross)              | <p>Relief agencies are continuing to provide relief support services as required. A number of relief agencies are in attendance at the Moe community respite centre and are available to assist with relief needs as required.</p> <p>Relief planning continues for the potential relocation of the broader community in parts of Morwell if deemed necessary.</p>   |
| Recovery                            | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DHS staff continue to attend community meetings and monitor social media so that priority issues raised by communities are noted and responded to.</p>  |
| Communications / Public Information | <p>Updates to relief and recovery content on <a href="http://www.recovery.vic.gov.au">www.recovery.vic.gov.au</a>, the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line and social media messaging continue.</p> <p>Participation in a number of planning meetings focussed on public information and provided contributions to media releases, Whole of Victorian Government public information campaign and Department of Health messaging, including public information lines about ash fallout and the establishment of the Moe respite centre.</p> <p>Monitoring of social and traditional media is ongoing.</p> <p>The Minister for Health, Chief Health Officer, Fire Services Commissioner and Director Health &amp; Human Services Emergency Management visited Morwell today.</p> |
| Business Continuity                 | Nil to report  |

### ISSUES:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Issue         | Nil to report |
| Actions taken |               |

### OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

#### RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

| Region and LGA                                       | Location   | Type of Centre | Hours/Attendees   |
|--|--|----------------|---|
| Grampians<br>Horsham Rural City Council              | Grampians Community Centre,<br>Stawell                             | Recovery       | 9am – 5 pm (Mon – Fri)                                    |
| Hume<br>Mitchell Shire Council                       | Wallan Library, 12/81 High<br>Street, Wellington Square,<br>Wallan | Recovery       | 9am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)<br>9am – 1pm (Sat – Sun)            |
| Hume<br>Mitchell Shire Council                       | Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney<br>Street, Kilmore                      | Recovery       | 9am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)<br>9am – 1pm (Sat – Sun)            |
| Loddon Mallee Region<br>Macedon Ranges Shire Council | Romsey Community Hub,<br>96–100 Main Road Romsey                   | Recovery       | 9am – 12pm  |
| Loddon Mallee Region<br>Macedon Ranges Shire Council | Darraweit Guim Town Hall<br>Bolinda Darraweit Road                 | Recovery       | 12pm – 5 pm   |
| Gippsland<br>LaTrobe City Council                    | Moe Town Hall,<br>Albert St, Moe                                   | Respite        | 2pm – 7pm (opened 19/2/14)<br>9am – 7pm (20/2/14 onwards) |

#### 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               | 4                       | \$4,250            |
| Gippsland – East Gippsland           | 29                      | \$22,250           |
| 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           |
| <b>Sum Total</b>                     | <b>1,098</b>            | <b>\$1,112,600</b> |

**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

| Region and LGA         | Number Re-establishment Grants | Total              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hume - Wallan          | 9                              | \$20,750           |
| Hume - Kilmore         | 9                              | \$27,000           |
| Hume – Numurkah        | 1                              | \$2,530            |
| Gippsland – Wellington | 1                              | \$3,000            |
| <b>Sum Total</b>       | <b>20</b>                      | <b>\$53,280</b>    |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>     |                                | <b>\$1,165,880</b> |

**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, Thursday 20 February 2014**

**Endorsed by:**

**Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander**

**Vanessa Coli: State Health Coordinator**