



Ernest Jones Drive, Macleod VIC 3085 | GPO Box 4395 Melbourne Vic 3001 | DX 210675

## **Coal Mine Fire at Morwell, Victoria, Australia. PEER REVIEWS**

### **Review of the EPA Victoria response to the Morwell Coal Fire: Water Monitoring and Assessment.**

#### **Review scope:**

1. Is our monitoring design appropriate to deal with all potential issues?
2. Are our assessment tools and methodology the best currently available?
4. Are there any other gaps or potential improvements in our current assessment, data sources, tools and methodology?
5. Are there approaches to communicating our summaries EPA could consider to improve our current products?
6. Will our current approach and outputs give EPA the level of confidence in the results to enable clear input into decision-making protocols?

#### **Reviewer details:**

Dr Vincent Pettigrove. Chief Executive Officer / Principle Research Fellow. Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management

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#### **Brief Bio:**

Dr Pettigrove is the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management ([www.capim.com.au](http://www.capim.com.au)). Dr Pettigrove is a Principle Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne, Australia, and Principal Ecologist at Melbourne Water and has 30 years experience in the Victorian water industry and aquatic research. Vincent also heads the CAPIM Freshwater Research group. In addition he is an adjunct Associate Professor at Victoria University and Senior Associate at RMIT University. He has designed and conducted a broad range of research and monitoring programs that help catchment management agencies understand what are the priority issues impacting the health of aquatic ecosystems. Research areas include freshwater sediment toxicity, exotic fish management, pesticide pollution, endocrine disrupting chemicals, macroinvertebrates, and the use of fish and other biota as indicators of sediment pollution. He has produced over 40 published journal articles and peer reviewed conference papers

#### **Your understanding of the topic and scope:**

A verbal brief of the Morwell situation, along with the material supplied was adequate.

#### **Material supplied by EPA:**

1. More detailed maps of Morwell town (with monitoring sites).
2. List of EPA water monitoring activities



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**Additional material requested:**

Nil

**Response**

It looks like you have a good selection of sites throughout the study area including two rainwater tanks in the vicinity of Hazelwood.

I would recommend that site codes are included on the map. Otherwise I think this is a suitable monitoring program to assess the impact of the fire on local water quality.