



# Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/FIRE Plan

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|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Version</b> | <b>6.0</b>              |
| <b>Date</b>    | <b>28 February 2014</b> |
| <b>Review</b>  | <b>7 March 2014</b>     |

**Distribution:**

State Control Team

State Emergency Management Team

Regional Controller Latrobe Valley

Regional Controller Gippsland

Regional Emergency Management Team

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This Plan has been approved and endorsed by the following:

All Attachments have been approved by the relevant Department/Agency head.

**Endorsed by:**

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Chief Officer, CFA

Date.....

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A/Chief Officer, MFB

Date.....

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**Approved by:**

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Craig Lapsley

Fire Services Commissioner

Date.....

## ***Purpose***

The purpose of this Plan is to document the strategic approach being taken to manage the HazMat/Fires in the Latrobe Valley (LTV) coal mines (this includes Hazelwood and Yallourn coal mines). It is supported by a range of strategies and plans addressing specific issues involved in this complex event. These strategies and plans are updated as appropriate to respond to the needs of the suppression of the HazMat/Fire and the wellbeing of the community and responders.

## ***End State***

The ultimate goal for this State LTV Plan is to assist the State Controller to ensure the effective management of the HazMat/Fire to achieve suppression of this complex fire, to a level that will allow the State Controller to hand control of the situation to the operators for post fire ratification purposes and to look after the well-being of the community.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat Fire is considered a State significant event requiring a large contingent of ongoing resources committed to manage the suppression and community consequences.

The Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Plan has been developed to manage the complexities associated with this event. The critical elements of the Plan and the success of the operation relate to an integrated approach across all departments and agencies, industry and the community. To achieve this, a series of strategies and plans underpin the Plan focusing on six core theme:

### ***Critical Elements***

#### **Suppression**

The priorities for the targeted suppression and extinguishment of the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire event is to:

- Maintain a focus on the State Strategic Control Priorities;
- Maintain critical mine assets;
- Reduce smoke, ash and toxic plumes in order to minimise the impact on personnel and the broader community;
- Ensure sufficient departmental/agency resources are available to maintain a prolonged efforts;
- Ensure sufficient fixed resources are in place for mine personnel to manage the incident autonomously; and
- Transfer responsibility for the event back to mine management at the appropriate time.

#### **Communication and Engagement**

The Multi Agency Communication and Engagement Strategy's intent is to keep the Latrobe Valley and wider Gippsland community informed in relation to the open cut mines HazMat/Fires by providing accessible, timely, tailored and relevant information.

#### **Air/Water Analysis and Monitoring**

The strategic operational priorities for air/water analysis and monitoring are:

- Maximise the information value of available assets;

- Maximise the automation/real time availability of the data/information;
- Ensure the strategic location of monitoring equipment for accuracy of data;
- Match product with the needs of the stakeholders – but balance granularity of data with value for better decisions;
- Support a streamlined and clearly understood decision making process with other agencies from the analysis of the data; and
- Continuously re-evaluate against stakeholder needs and upgrade/amend if necessary.

## **Health Impact**

The health of the community and personnel is paramount. The Health Incident Action Plan – Health Impacts for the Latrobe Valley HazMat/Fires priority is to manage and clarify the health protection needs of the Latrobe Valley community impacted by the smoke and ash from the Hazelwood mine incident and provide the appropriate level of information that is clearly understood and accessible as well as providing health support services to the community.

## **Infrastructure Protection**

Critical infrastructure at risk has been identified and assessed within and surrounding the Morwell (Hazelwood) and Yallourn coal mines. This information is provided to inform the decision making and strategy development at the incident, regional and State levels

## **Government Services**

Regular Government Services are to remain accessible for the community.

This Plan is for 28 February onwards and will be reviewed for currency on the 6 March 2014. Any changes or updates to this Plan and the attachments will be released on 7 March 2014 to ensure that the response and support provided for the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire remains relevant and effective to the changing incident environment and needs of the community.

# **1. SITUATION**

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## **1.1 Background**

### **1.1.1 Location Summary**

The Latrobe Valley has a number of power stations and mines around the towns of Moe, Morwell and Traralgon, as shown in the diagram below.

Fires have impacted two of the three major power stations in the area: Hazelwood Power Station and Yallourn Power Station.



### 1.1.2 Community Profile

Latrobe City Council is located in the Gippsland region of Victoria, about 150km south-east of Melbourne. The City is bounded by Baw Baw Shire in the north and north-west, Wellington Shire in the east and south-east, and South Gippsland Shire in the south-west. Latrobe is an urban and rural area with the majority of the population living in the urban areas of Traralgon (pop: 25,597), Moe (pop: 9,310), Morwell (pop: 13,942) and Churchill. The City encompasses a total land area of about 1,425 square kilometres and is a significant energy provider for Victoria, with brown coal mining used to generate electricity. The rural land is used mainly for dairy farming, general farming and plantation forestry.

### 1.1.3 Facility Summary

#### Hazelwood Power Station

- The Hazelwood power station and brown coal mine are located in Victoria's Latrobe Valley, 150km east of Melbourne. The 1,542 megawatt brown-coal fired power station is supplied with brown coal from the adjacent mine.
- The power station is owned by GDF SUEZ. The power station employs around 1000 staff, with hundreds more employed during major outages. Hazelwood supplies up to 25% of Victoria's energy requirements and more than 5% of Australia's total energy demand. It supplies over 35,000 customers throughout West Gippsland.
- The generators at Hazelwood are two-pole synchronous machines, direct coupled to the associated turbine. All use a combination of water and hydrogen cooling.
- Water for the thermal cooling process is provided from Moondarra Reservoir, supplemented by artesian water extracted to ensure mine stability. Hazelwood uses the adjacent man-made Hazelwood Cooling Pondage (volume 30,000 ML) to circulate and cool water for reuse in the power station's thermal water cycle.
- Hazelwood power station uses lignite or brown coal sourced from the Hazelwood mine. Up to 20 million tonnes of coal is extracted annually to fuel Hazelwood power station and provide coal to Morwell power station (Energy Brix Australia). Around 4.8 million cubic metres of overburden is removed each year to ensure access to coal reserves.
- Hazelwood occupies 3,965 hectares and has a perimeter boundary of 39 km.

#### Yallourn Power Station

- The Yallourn brown coal power station is located in the Latrobe Valley, 150km east of Melbourne. The power station commenced operations in 1974 with four generating units commissioned between 1974 and 1982.

- The station supplies approximately 22% of Victoria's electricity needs and approximately 8% of Australia's total energy demand.
- These turbines have a combined capacity of 1,480 megawatts of electricity which is enough to supply around two million homes.
- A unique feature of the power station is its three vast concrete cooling towers, once the steam has passed through the turbine, water from the towers cools the steam so it can be pumped back to the boilers and reheated to steam, once again driving the turbines.

## 1.2 Current Situation

### 1.2.1 Situation Summary

On Sunday 9 February, a large number of grass fires started around Morwell. As a result, fires impacted a range of infrastructure, including the Hazelwood Power Station and Yallourn Power Station. Fire remains in the area around Morwell, including inside the Hazelwood mine site and in proximity to the Yallourn Power Station. An Incident Management Team was established at the Traralgon Incident Control Centre under the leadership of a HazMat/Fire Incident Controller. There were two divisions being operated: Hazelwood and Yallourn.

#### Hazelwood Mine Division

Fire continues to burn in non-working sections of the mine along Northern and Southern batters of the mine. Progress has been made Northern batters while there has been an increase in activity on the Southern. This is best demonstrated by the Infra-red linescan comparison maps in Attachment 2.

There is a large quantity of overburden with some vegetation fires burning on the floor of the mine. Regular surveying work is being undertaken and an engineering expert firm has been engaged to provide additional advice to the Regional Controller on areas such as water inflow and outflow and mine integrity.

Wet lines have been put in place between the active fire area and the working sections of the mine to prevent the spread of the fire. Contingency plans have been made for fall back lines in the event of increased fire behavior or loss of control.

There is currently no firefighting activity in the Working Face Sector. Ground monitors are in place on the Northern side to provide fall back line.

There have been some asset loss involving onsite power lines, pumping stations and non-production equipment such as old conveyors belts. Power lines have been partially restored. Damage has also occurred to the conveyor to Energy Bricks which is an adjoining property to the Hazelwood Mine. The loss of this conveyor has resulted in coal having to be transported to Energy Brix by alternative means for up to 6 months. Substantial work is being undertaken to allow the mine to continue operations.

#### Yallourn Mine Division

Progress has been made on addressing hot spots. The situation was assessed and fire agency resources were demobilized and transition management back to Energy Australia Yallourn on 19 February 2014. Yallourn continued to operate at full capacity throughout this event and there were no recorded asset loss.

### 1.2.2 Weather Prognosis (7 day outlook for the Latrobe Valley)

Issued Friday 28 February 0532 hrs

#### Forecast for Friday 28 February

Mostly sunny. Winds east to southeasterly and light. Min: 8 Max: 25

**Forecast for Saturday 1 March**

Patchy fog early in the morning. Mostly sunny afternoon. Winds south to southeasterly and light. Min: 11 Max: 27

**Forecast for Sunday 2 March**

Partly cloudy. The chance of drizzle in the morning. Winds east to southeasterly and light. Min: 12 Max: 27

**Forecast for Monday 3 March**

Patchy morning fog. Mostly sunny afternoon. Light winds. Min: 12 Max: 30

**Forecast for Tuesday 4 March**

Mostly sunny morning. A possible shower or two later in the day. Light winds. Min: 14 Max: 33

**Forecast for Wednesday 5 March**

Cloudy. A shower or two during the morning. Winds west to southwesterly and light. Min: 16 Max: 24

**Forecast for Thursday 6 March**

Partly cloudy. Possible shower. Light winds Min: 9 Max: 24

## 2. INTENT

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The State Controller's 'Strategic Control Priorities' outlined in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria are being utilised to ensure planning is focused and strategic. The 'Strategic Control Priorities' are:

- Protection and preservation of life is paramount. This includes:
  - Safety of emergency services personnel, and;
  - Safety of community members including vulnerable community members and visitors/tourists located within the incident area;
- Issuing of community information and community warnings detailing incident information that is timely, relevant and tailored to assist community members make informed decisions about their safety;
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets that support community resilience;
- Protection of residential property as a place of primary residence;
- Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production that supports individual and community financial sustainability; and
- Protection of environmental and conservation assets that considers the cultural, biodiversity, and social values of the environment.

This HazMat / Fire is a State significant priority second only to priority of life.

## 3. EXECUTION

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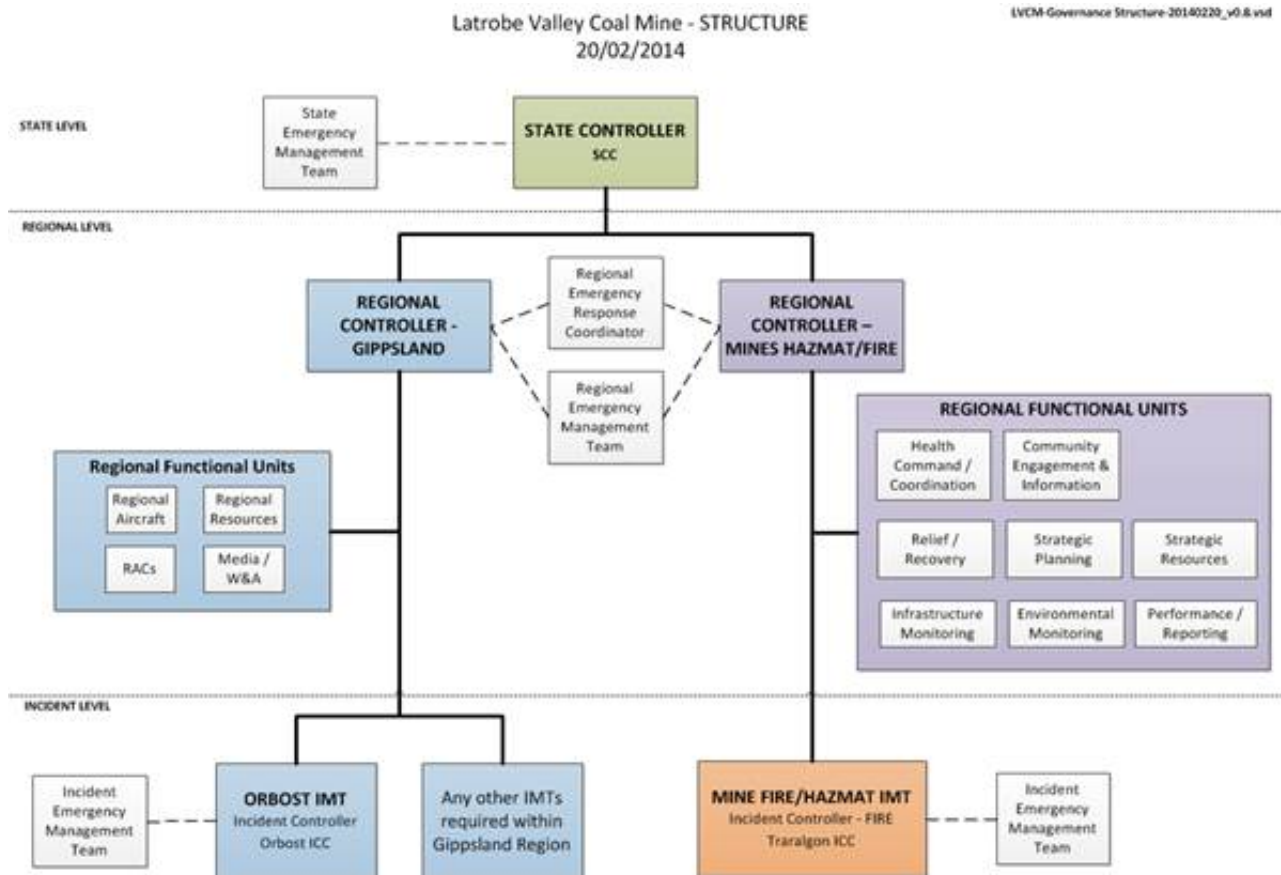
### 3.1 Governance Arrangements

#### 3.1.2 Background

On Sunday 9 February, two fires burnt into the vicinity of both the Morwell (Hazelwood) brown coal open



cut mine which supplies the Hazelwood power station and the Yallourn brown coal open cut mine which supplies Yallourn. Under the State arrangements for Fire, the line-of-control arrangements were already in place with a Regional Controller in place for Gippsland, operating from the Traralgon Regional Control Centre. These fires entered both the Hazelwood and Yallourn open cut mines creating a new level of complexity and challenges. To ensure sufficient oversight of each of these complex incidents two separate Gippsland Regional Control structures were established. One to focus solely on the LTV Coal Mine HazMat/Fire and another to focus on the bushfire complexes burning in East Gippsland. The State Controller approved governance structure is detailed below.



This structure has been reviewed as part of the Reporting and Performance Framework established by the Regional Controller and has been assessed as appropriate and working well.

### Regional Functional Units

The Regional Controller Latrobe Valley Mines/HazMat is supported by a range of Regional Functional Units (as per the above diagram) to cover the complex environment and to support the needs of the community. These Functional Units operate within the Regional Control Centre implementing the strategic plans and actions plans develop for this event and consist of:

| <i>Regional Functional Units</i>       | <i>Department/Agency Leads</i>  | <i>Strategies/Plans</i>  |
|--|---|--|
| Health Command/Coordination            | Department of Health<br>Ambulance Victoria                            | DH Health Incident Action Plan No 2 26 February 2014<br>Health Management & Decontamination Plan – Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire V4.3 26 Feb 2014 |
| Communication Engagement & Information | Fire Service Agencies<br>Latrobe City Council<br>Department of Health | Multi Agency Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy  |

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
|                           | Ambulance Victoria  |   |
| Relief and Recovery       | Department of Human Services<br>Latrobe City Council  | Gippsland Respite and Relief Plan V1.3  |
| Strategic Planning        | Fire Service Agencies<br>Industry   | Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Operational Plan (Suppression and Extinguishment) v5.1; 25 February 2014                         |
| Strategic Resources       | Fire Services Agencies<br>Industry  | Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Operational Plan (Suppression and Extinguishment) v5.1; 25 February 2014                         |
| Infrastructure Monitoring | Department of State Development,<br>Business & Innovation<br><br>Department of Transport, Planning &<br>Local Infrastructure<br><br>VicRoads<br><br>Department of Environment & Primary<br>Industry | Infrastructure Plan 26 February 2014  |
| Environmental Monitoring  | Department of Health<br><br>EPA Victoria  | DH LTV Carbon Monoxide Response Protocol 27 February 2014   |
| Performance and Reporting | Fire Services Agencies<br><br>Other Lead Agencies   | Reporting and Performance Framework 26 February 2014 (performance reporting is provided to the Regional Controller on a daily basis). |

## Integrated Response Arrangements

### 3.1 Suppression and Extinguishment Strategy

The initial suppression and extinguishment strategy was focused on extinguishing surface fire utilising: aircraft, aerial pumpers, ground crews, building fixed infrastructure for water and fixed water sprinklers.

A Suppression Strategy Options were developed and an Expert Reference Group who were assembled to review and provide advice to the State Controller on the soundness of the approach and other options for consideration.

The Expert Reference Group identified three overarching principles that must underpin successful operational suppression planning:

1. Safety of personnel and community
2. Efficient resourcing
3. Effective management structures.

In addition to the three overarching principles, the Group identified the following operational actions

underpinned by suggested approaches to these that should be considered when determining the suppression and extinguishment activities:

- Continue to reduce smoke and products of combustion
- Continue to protect critical assets within the mine
- Continue to extinguish the fire
- Use a balanced water strategy
- Employ an aggressive focused weight of attack
- Continue to monitor and analyse critical aspects of the incident (eg. Geotech).

The optimal suppression and extinguishment methodology for this HazMat/Fire is an aggressive focused weight of attack. The main suppression effort has a considered extinguishment strategy consisting of four elements:

1. Manage protection of critical mine infrastructure including working mine face
2. Hold areas already extinguished and manage breakouts
3. Smoke (ash and carbon monoxide) management in areas not yet extinguished
4. Intensive weight of attack in small incremental sections of the northern batter from both ends.

The Latrobe Valley Coal Mine Hazmat/Fire Operational Plan (Suppression and Extinguishment) details the adopted approach.

**Reference Documentation:**

*Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Suppression Strategy Options. Version 2; 17 February 2014*

**Attachment 1** *Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Operational Plan (Suppression and Extinguishment) Version 5.1 25 February 2014*



[Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire Operational Plan](#)

### 3.2 Air/Water Analysis and Monitoring Strategy

The DH LVT Carbon Monoxide Response Protocol has been developed with EPA to support the Regional Control and Incident management to acquire air quality data, and to translate into information and provide in a timely manner to inform operational and consequence decision making.

The strategic operational priorities for EPA are;

- Maximise the information value of available assets;
- Maximise the automation/real time availability of the data/information;
- Match product with the needs of the stakeholders – but balance granularity of data with value for better decisions;
- Support a streamlined and clearly understood decision making process with other agencies from the analysis of the data;
- Continuously re-evaluate against stakeholder needs and upgrade/amend if necessary.

Water testing was undertaken 15 February 2014 and the analysis of the results determined that time that no ongoing water monitoring was required. EPA however is undertaking water testing on a 48 hour cycle. This data requires an OHS hygienist to analysis and provide advice to the Regional Controller on and actions required to be taken.

Air quality analysis and monitoring for Carbon Monoxide (CO) within the community has been carried out since 14 February 2014 and from the 19 February 2014 Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) has also been monitored for the purpose of managing the health impact and advice information to the community. This will continue until the situation subsides.

**Reference documentation:**

**Attachment 2** *DH Latrobe Valley Coal Mines HazMat/Fires Carbon Monoxide Response Protocol 27 February 2014*



[DH Latrobe Valley Coal Mines HazMat/Fires Carbon Monoxide Response Protocol](#)

### 3.3 Health Impacts Strategy

#### 3.4.1 Community Health

The DH Health Incident Action Plan – Health Impacts for the Latrobe Valley HazMat/ Fires has been developed to manage and clarify the health protection needs of the Latrobe Valley community impacted by the smoke from the Hazelwood mine. The key focus is on the community of Morwell which adjoins the Hazelwood mine. The plan has been established by the Department of Health in its role as a support agency under the EMMV. This incident is described as a fire with a HazMat overlay.

On the 14 February the Department of Health and EPA implemented Bushfire Smoke Air Quality Guidelines for mine fire and developed communication plan for responders, mine workers and the community.

The State Health Emergency Response Plan (SHERP) was activated on 16 February with deployment of Health Commanders in support of the occupational health and safety of responders to the fire in the Hazelwood mine. The Health and Human Services Emergency Management (HHSEM) State Emergency Management Centre was activated on 17 February to provide the Incident Management System (IMS) functions of planning, operations, logistics, public information, investigation and intelligence to support the health response.

The DH Health Incident Action Plan - Health Impacts provides detailed information of the response to the Latrobe Valley community including: an outline of the control relationships, a framework for escalation of health risk messages, Chief Health Officer Advice, communication framework and details on the integrated approach being undertaken on the Monitoring, Assessment, Actions and Communication of potential community health impacts from smoke.

#### Reference Documentation:

##### **Attachment 3** *DH Health Incident Action Plan – Health Impacts No 2*



[DH Health Incident Action Plan – Health Impacts](#)

#### 3.4.2 Respite and Health Assessment Centres

The Department of Human Services has prepared a Gippsland Regional Relief Plan in response to the impact on communities from the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine fire. The plan identifies lead agencies for emergency relief functions at both the regional level and for each municipality in the Gippsland region. It also provides a detailed assessment of relief service arrangements within the Latrobe municipality, including the capacity of nominated service providers and some information on contingencies if scalability of relief service provision is required. The plan also identifies facilities that are available to support the accommodation of community members should relocation be necessary. It identifies primary accommodation facilities that would be opened first plus additional centres that would be opened should the capacity of initial facilities be reached. The number of people capable of being accommodated at each is also identified.

Respite Centres for residents seeking temporary respite from the smokey conditions caused by the Hazelwood coal mine HazMat/Fire have been established. The main Community Respite Centre is located in Moe however centres may be located at different venues depending on the environmental conditions on any given day. Locations identified for respite purposes will be easily air-conditioned, accessible, identifiable and will have facilities to cope with large numbers of people. The Centres will operate from 9.00am to 7.00pm daily.

Senior representatives from departments and agencies will be present to provide information and support to affected persons. Services at the Respite Centres are information on the HazMat/Fire event and health impact, provision of tea and coffee, activities for children, personal support and first aid. The Centre is also managing appointments for requests for Personal Hardship Respite Payments. The Department of Human Services is coordinated the provision of Respite Centres.

A Community Health Assessment Centre was opened on 21 February 2014 between 8am and 8pm at the Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell adjacent to the Mid-Valley Shopping Centre. Resources at the Centre have been increased from 27 February and it is staffed by three nurses and three paramedics per shift. The Centre offers basic primary health assessments such as blood

pressure, heart rate, temperature and basic respiratory checks such as chest sounds and respiratory rate. Should anyone need medical care, they will be referred to their own doctor or to Latrobe Regional Hospital. People visiting the Centre will also be provided with current health and other community information about the health impacts of the mine fire.

Further to Premier Napthine's announcement (27 February 2014) regarding the establishment of a respite accommodation system for affected Morwell residents, Tourism Victoria is liaising with the regional tourism board, Destination Gippsland and the Latrobe City Council regarding the proposed establishment of a commercial tourism accommodation component of this system. In particular, Tourism Victoria is providing specific advice and support to Destination Gippsland (who is leading the proposal) based on its experiences of managing a similar system established following Black Saturday.

#### Reference Documentation:

##### **Attachment 6** Gippsland Regional Respite and Relief Plan V1.3



[Gippsland Regional Respite & Relief Plan](#)

### 3.4.3 Workplaces

The Victorian WorkCover Authority is advising workplaces in the Latrobe Valley to take steps to reduce the impact of bushfire and coal fire smoke on workers, as fires continue to affect air quality in the region. Workplaces are being directed to the advice issued by the Department of Health in relation to people undertaking strenuous activity outdoors, particularly those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, while air quality remained poor.

Each workplace is different, so WorkSafe are asking businesses to review their systems of work and consider if measures need to be put in place to protect workers from the risks associated with smoke and carbon monoxide. The importance of communicating with their workplaces about the conditions is being stressed and encouraging workers to speak up if they identify any risks to health and safety.

### 3.4.4 Emergency Services and Personnel on the fire-ground

The Health Management and Decontamination Plan for Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire has been developed to manage the health and safety of all personnel on the fire-ground at both Hazelwood and Yallourn Mines. The Plan covers the health, safety and welfare arrangements in relation to:

- General health and Crew Selection requirements for the deployment to Hot Zones
- The health monitoring process for personnel that have been deployed to the mine fire due to the risk posed by elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide
- The management of Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment used in the Hot Zones.

#### Reference Documentation:

##### **Attachment 4** Health Management and Decontamination Plan – Latrobe Valley Coal Mines HazMat Fire Version 4.3; 26 February 2014



[Health Management and Decontamination Plan](#)

### 3.4.5 Agriculture and Companion Animals

DEPI is leading the monitoring and management of any impacts on agriculture and companion animals in line with the Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan. Specifically in this event DEPI is working closely with EPA and its monitoring program to ascertain potential impacts of emitted smoke and particles on animal health and food safety. DEPI is liaising closely with Primesafe, Dairy Food Safety Victoria and via the later the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture regarding potential food safety and market access concerns. Current advice provided to the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and EMJPIC is that there are no food safety issues identified. Any food safety issues are to be jointly communicated with Department of Health. There is also no current agricultural impacts confirmed as a result of the smoke and ash

produced by the fire. If and when required DEPI will work with VFF to coordinate availability of fodder and agistment for stock.

Work is also underway with local government to ensure LGA pounds and relief centres have appropriate provision for the welfare of any animals displaced by the event. Where necessary DEPI coordinates RSPCA and private veterinarians to support LGA. Messages have been made available on DEPI website and to RCC on the management of stock affected by smoke and ash. Additional information messages are being developed with regard to companion animals in Morwell. Surveys of private veterinary practitioners are being undertaken by phone to monitor any impacts/issues being presented in regard to pets.

### 3.4 Infrastructure Plan

The Infrastructure Plan identifies infrastructure which is potentially at risk from the Morwell Coal Mine HazMat/Fire, and the mitigation and contingency measures in place to reduce the likelihood and consequence to service delivery if the infrastructure is compromised. The Plan focuses on infrastructure surrounding the mine such as roads and power lines. The Plan is led by the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation with the Department of Planning, Transport and Local Infrastructure and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

#### **Reference Documentation:**

**Attachment 5** Hazelwood and Yallourn Open Cut Coal Mines Infrastructure Plan and List. 26 February 2014



[Hazelwood and Yallourn Open Cut Coal Mines Infrastructure Protection Strategy](#)  
[Hazelwood and Yallourn Open Cut Coal Mines Infrastructure Protection List](#)

### 3.5 Community Impact

#### *3.5.1 Community Health Information*

To provide timely tailored authoritative community information a Community Health Information protocol has been enacted. The baseline health advisory information will be communicated via any suitable platform (eg. OSOM) and authored by the Department of Health being the appropriate authority to deal with long term accumulative health issues.

*Immediate Health Impact* Any monitoring above 70PPM (rolling average for one hour over two consecutive hours) will immediately trigger EPA, Health, VicPol, Incident Controller, Deputy Regional Controller and Ambulance Victoria to convene as a strategic EMT to consider the appropriate advice/information to the community. This may include respite, relocation or evacuation.

Readings above 70PPM (rolling average for one hour over two consecutive hours) will immediately deploy specialists whose mission will be to delineate/identify the safest area for potential relocation of community to limit the social dislocation of vulnerable community members in particular but also the broader community.

#### *3.5.2 Relocation of Vulnerable People*

On Friday 28 February 2014, the Chief Health Officer advised that vulnerable people in the Morwell area should relocate on a temporary basis due to the continued level of pollution in the area. Those who should relocate are: pregnant women, residents aged 65 and over, pre-school aged children (under 5 – including babies and infants), and anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions. People identified as being ‘at risk’ are being encouraged to organise their own accommodation and transport if they can. Those who require help to relocate are to contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 006 468 or to make an appointment at one of the four information centres. The Victorian and Commonwealth Government are providing financial assistance to eligible residents who live near the mine in the south of Morwell area to help them to take a break from their homes if they choose to do. Those eligible for assistance will also be provided with assistance to relocate their pets or companion animals. Residents who choose to relocate can make their own informed decision of when it is safe to return home. However people are urged not to return until the Chief Information considers it to be safe to do so.

### 3.5.3 Operational Evacuation Plan

VicPol has prepared an Operational Evacuation Plan for the deteriorating air quality associated with the Hazelwood Coal Mine HazMat/Fire at Morwell. The intent of this plan is to facilitate the safe and orderly withdrawal, sheltering and the return of the affected community in the event of evacuation. Evacuation is a last resort and the preferred strategy is for people to relocate or take a break, that is, go out of town and get some fresh air. A 'respite centre' has been established in Moe with the intention of providing for this option.

Fluctuating air quality causes fluctuating levels of risk and means the precise extent of evacuation is to be determined subject to risk. A risk assessment indicates an evacuation could affect from 500 to 3000 people depending on the area impacted by carbon monoxide at the time. The area most likely to be impacted is the residential areas south of Commercial Road Morwell. In the very worst case scenario where the entire Morwell township required evacuation approximately 10,000 people would be affected. Those persons most at risk and in need of assistance being the elderly, sick and vulnerable persons are planned for in the evacuation process. It is anticipated that the majority of people living in this area will be in a position to self-evacuate.

Both north and south of Commercial Road Morwell has been divided into sectors to assist with the orderly movement of affected persons to relief centres identified in the operational plan. Triggers for evacuation will be determined by the Department of Health who will communicate this information to the Incident Controller.

#### Reference Documentation:

**Attachment 8** VicPol Operational Evacuation Plan – Location Morwell V4 27 Feb 2014



[VicPol Operational Evacuation Plan](#)

## 3.6 Community Engagement

### 3.6.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The Multi Agency Communication and Engagement Strategy's intent is to maintain trust and good-will by keeping the Latrobe Valley and wider Gippsland community informed in relation to the open cut mines HazMat/Fires by providing timely, tailored and relevant information. The strategy is also designed to assist and support other agencies and departments to communicate their information (Health, EPA, Local Government). This will be achieved by committing to regular communication and stakeholder engagement (including mainstream channels but with a strong emphasis on face-to-face engagement and letter box) and by having a clear channel for information. The messaging content and modes of delivery will be continually adjusted to meet the changing circumstances and the needs of the community. A key source of the community circumstances and needs are the community meetings, Mobile Education Unit, Information Points, Mobile Education Trailer and Walk & Talk activities which are carried out by Community Officers and Local Health personnel.

#### Reference Documentation:

**Attachment 7** LTV Multi Agency Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (to be distributed separately)



**LTV Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (to be distributed separately)**

### 3.6.2 Business Engagement Strategy

The Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI) has developed a Business Engagement and Communication Strategy designed to provide specific information and advice to business operators and industries impacted by the Latrobe Valley HazMat/Fires. The communication plan targets businesses directly and responds to their issues and needs. As part of this Strategy, the Mobile Business Centre will be in Morwell from week commencing 3 March 2014 to provide business mentoring and advice. DSDBI (RDV) and the Latrobe City Council will be commencing a series of free workshops for local businesses to provide specific advice on business operations and planning for recovery. A Business Breakfast is also planned and DSDBI will ensure the appropriate information is available at this function. Further work is being undertaken to identify additional activities to support the specific needs of the local business community.

### *3.6.3 Government Services*

There is a commitment and plan to maintain Government Services to the communities during the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire. Some services such as schools and early childhood centres have been relocated to surrounding areas such as Moe.

Details of any changes to service delivery locations are a critical component of all community information.

## **4. ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS**

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### **4.1 Resourcing**

The State Controller recognises that with a number of significant incidents occurring across the State, there is a limitation on the availability of resources for both response to the major fires and for readiness in the event of new fire starts. Planning is underway for the potential severe weather days expected on Monday 3 March and Tuesday 4 March.

The Regional Controller Latrobe Valley for Hazelwood, in consultation with IMT, has developed a resourcing plan for the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine IMT, to ensure there is consistent and efficient use of resources. The current resourcing strategy involves a 16-day plan with 4-day rotations of IMT staffing levels.

The intent of the resourcing strategy is to maintain a steady number of State resources at the fire sites, provided partly from within the Region and partly from outside the Region where required. Substantial support has been prepared and provided by MFB personnel.

Resource submitted via the State Resource Request System and the State Strategic Support Team Lead in order to ensure that progress is monitored effectively and priority focus in consultation with MFB, is maintained. Significant resources have been accessed from interstate and New Zealand and deployed to the SCC and Gippsland Region.

#### **IMTs**

Day shift requires a full IMT rotating on a 4-day cycle with 1-day travel at each end of the 4-day rotation.

Night shift requires a Core IMT rotating on a 4-day cycle with 1-day travel each end of the 4-day rotation. All IMTs to have key local personnel blended within IMTs.

#### **Regional Control**

Regional Controller Latrobe Valley for Hazelwood will continue to remain in place to focus on Latrobe Valley Mine Fires and provide a linkage back to the Gippsland Regional Controller and strategies to broader fire surroundings. Regional Controllers Latrobe Valley for Hazelwood will rotate on 4-day shifts.

#### **Human Resource Management**

This incident will be prolonged, complex and dynamic and will create a workplace that will require constant support and management. The management of people is a key aspect to the overall approach to this event.



Volunteer personnel from the CFA, SES, Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and other volunteer agencies and organisations are critical to the success. The management and acknowledgement of the Volunteer contribution is very important step in managing a prolonged incident.

Likewise, career personnel working with volunteers, in an integrated workforce is fundamental to the overall success. Review and consideration of the appropriate support and needs is paramount in all strategies and action plans developed to deliver a successful outcome.

### Specialist Resources

Specialist pumping equipment and monitors such as Compressed Air Foam systems, Aerial Pumpers, Telebooms, Heavy Pumpers and Ground Monitors have been sourced and provided to support the suppression/containment strategy. Atmospheric monitoring and CO monitoring equipment is in place and has been expanded in order to advise on community impacts. A range of new technologies have and will be applied to reduce smoke levels and quicken extinguishment.

## 5. COMMAND

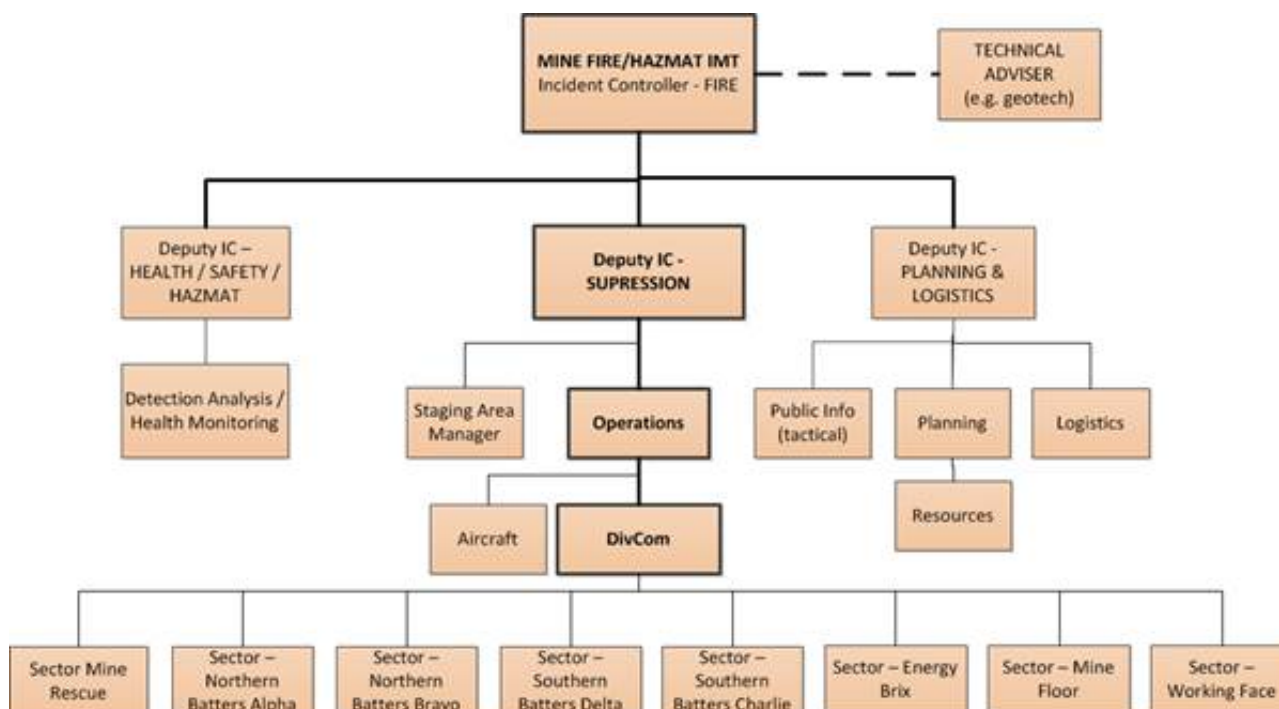
### 5.1 Control Structure

The State Controller approved governance structure for the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire is referred to in Section 3 of this document.

At the regional level the Regional Controller – Mines HazMat Fire has been established to focus on the area of interest of the Latrobe Valley Coal Mines. A single Incident Controller is reporting directly to the Regional Controller. This Incident Controller is managing the fire in Hazelwood mine and Yallourn is now being managed through the local control arrangements.

### 5.2 Incident Management Structure

The overall Incident Management Structure of the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine HazMat/Fire has been approved as detailed below.



### 5.3 Strategic Partners

The State Controller established a State LTV Strategic Emergency Management Team that brought together the key strategic partners required to assist in managing LTV HazMat Fire. The role of this Strategic Support Team was to:

1. Ensure that State level agencies are engaged and actively supporting the response effort;
2. Provide a one-stop for strategic support to the Deputy State Controller LTV for any mine/power incident;
3. Action resource requests in a timely manner;
4. Provide assistance and advice to work through any blockages;
5. Ensure strategy plans are developed for infrastructure, air and water monitoring and Community health.
6. Consider broader impacts and what if scenarios of smoke impacts in the community, as well as associated potential health impacts;
7. Support a suppression strategy including:
  - a. Safety advisors providing health guidance for responders
  - b. Interstate/international expertise to support local personnel
  - c. Suppression of fire and how this will be achieved
  - d. Prevention of fire entering critical coal pits of infrastructure and how this will be achieved
  - e. Appropriate level for command staff
  - f. Appropriate SME on site
  - g. Connection to industry
  - h. Support the development of consistent messaging at Incident / Region and State levels as well as ESOs and ensure messaging to the community is consistent and relevant
8. Link into the State Control Centre – EMJPIC;
9. Ensure that resourcing is provided, where and as needed, as a priority;
10. Ensure that 4-day cycles of Incident Management Team (IMT) resources are planned for (full for day shift, core for night shift) jointly with MFB.

This Team operated until 21 February 2014. From this date the State Emergency Management Team (SEMT) will be drawn on a as needs basis to fulfill these objectives.

### Appendix 1 – LTV Risk and Consequence Plan



[LTV Risk and Consequence Plan](#)

### Appendix 2 – Infra-red Linescan Comparison of Hazelwood Mine



[Infra-red Linescan Comparison of Hazelwood Mine](#)