

IN THE MATTER OF THE HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF STEVEN WILLIAM HARKINS

- 1 My name is Steven William Harkins. My work address is Brodribb Road, Hazelwood, Victoria.
- 2 I am employed by Hazelwood Power Corporation Pty Ltd at the Hazelwood Coal Mine (**Mine**) and Hazelwood Power Station (**Power Station**) as the Director of People, Culture and Environment.
- 3 I have worked on-site at the Mine and Power Station (collectively, **Hazelwood**) for approximately 8 years.
- 4 Prior to that, I worked for approximately 9 years for the owners of the Mine, and was based in Melbourne.
- 5 I make this statement further to my witness statement dated 23 May 2014 (**My First Statement**).
- 6 In this statement I provide some background information in relation to the Mine, and also respond to certain matters referred to in a letter from the Board dated 9 May 2014.
- 7 At various stages throughout this statement, I refer to the CFA/Fire Services Commissioner taking action/s or being responsible for certain activities as “Incident Controller”. It is my understanding that the CFA/Fire Services Commissioner has the overall control of response to activities in relation to a major fire which is burning in any country area in Victoria: see section 16 of the *Emergency Management Act 1986* (Vic).

Background information

- 8 The Mine is owned and operated by the Hazelwood Power Partnership (**HPP**). Since 7 June 2013, the partners of the HPP have been:
 - (a) National Power Australia Investments Ltd;
 - (b) Hazelwood Pacific Pty Ltd;
 - (c) Australian Power Partners BV; and
 - (d) Hazelwood Churchill Pty Ltd.
- 9 Hazelwood Power Corporation Pty Ltd (**HPC**) is the holder of mining licence MIN 5004 issued under the *Electricity Industry Act 1993* (Vic) on 10 September 1996 (**Mining Licence**), under which the Mine is operated.
- 10 MIN 5004 has been amended since its grant, with additional mining licences MIN 5449, MIN 5450, MIN 5451 and MIN 5452 granted in relation to the West Field extension of the Mine amalgamated and incorporated into MIN 5004. A copy of MIN 5004 was provided to the

Board of Inquiry (**Board**) under cover of a letter from King & Wood Mallesons (**K&WM**) to the Board dated 2 May 2014.

- 11 Documentation confirming the amalgamation of MIN 5449, MIN 5450, MIN 5451 and MIN 5452 into MIN 5004 was provided to the Board under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 12 As noted above, since privatisation in September 1996 the Mine has been owned and operated by HPP, with the Mining Licence held by HPC. HPC and the partners in HPP are subsidiaries of International Power (Australia) Holdings Pty Ltd (**IPAH**). IPAH is jointly owned by subsidiaries of GDF Suez S.A and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. A simplified corporate structure diagram, depicting the corporate structure through which these companies own Hazelwood, was provided to the Board on a confidential basis under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 13 A chart depicting senior management at the Mine was provided to the Board under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 14 The Mine managers and senior employees with key responsibilities in relation to fire prevention, preparedness and response are as follows:

Position title	Name(s)
Mine Director	Garry Wilkinson
Manager Production	Rob Dugan
Services Superintendent	Dave Shanahan
Shift Supervisors¹	Scott Roberts, Tony Briffa, Peter Smith, Ian Wilkinson, Shaun O’Neill, Colin Lipman
Services Supervisors²	Dean Soares, Noel Coxall
Senior Project Manager	Darren Grieve

¹ There are 5 rosters (A – E), with one shift supervisor per roster, and one relief supervisor.

² There are 2 rosters (A – B), with one services supervisor per roster.

- 15 In the context of a fire emergency within the Mine, under Hazelwood’s fire and emergency policies (listed in paragraph 11 of My First Statement), the following Mine managers and officers have key responsibilities:

Position title	Name(s)
Emergency Services Liaison Officers (ESLOs)	Darren Grieve, Romeo Prezioso, Bob Knight, Alan Roach, Rob Dugan, Chris Morley
Emergency Commander	Garry Wilkinson, Shift Supervisors, Stan Kemsley, Rob Dugan

- 16 The principal instruments in relation to the mining industry in Victoria are:
- (a) *The Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)* (**MRSD Act**);
 - (b) *The Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2013 (Vic)*; and
 - (c) *The Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Extractive Industries) Regulations 2010 (Vic)*.
- 17 The MRSD Act regulates the grant of licences for exploration and mining, compensation, rehabilitation, royalties for mineral exploration, development activities and enforcement. Mining operations at the Mine are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Mining Licence. A plan of the Mining Licence area as at February 2013 was provided to the Board under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 18 Condition 1.1 of the Mining Licence is that “*work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved work plan (including a rehabilitation plan) as amended from time to time in accordance with the Mineral Resources Development Act 1990 (MRD Act)*...”³. Hazelwood’s current work plan (including a rehabilitation plan) is the Work Plan revision approved by the Department of Primary Industries (**DPI**) on 11 May 2009 (**Revised Work Plan**). A copy of the Revised Work Plan was provided to the Board under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 19 As regards fire management, under section 5.4.4 of the Revised Work Plan, Hazelwood is responsible for ensuring that fire management for the West Field [and the Mine more broadly] is “*a continuation of existing methods, and generally compl[ies] with the Latrobe Valley Open Cut Fire Protection Policy...*”. Hazelwood’s compliance with the requirements of the Mining Licence and Work Plan is currently regulated by the Department of State Development and Business Innovation (**DSDBI**), and was formerly regulated by its predecessor, the DPI. The Technical Review Board (**TRB**) established under Part 4A of the

³ The *Mineral Resources Development Act 1990 (Vic)* was renamed to the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)* in 2006.

MRSD Act is a separate body involved in the regulatory oversight of the Mine, particularly from the perspective of mine stability.

- 20 Hazelwood’s principal fire policies and procedures set out in paragraph 11 of My First Statement are based upon predecessor fire codes applicable to the Mine produced by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (**SECV**), and Generation Victoria, whilst the Mine was in government ownership. The principal predecessor fire codes include:
- (a) The *Latrobe Valley Open Cut Mines Fire Protection Policy* which was produced by the SECV in about 1981, and subsequently revised in November 1984; and
 - (b) The *Fire Service Policy and Code of Practice* (April 1994), which was a revision of the SECV Policy produced by Generation Victoria.
- 21 Hazelwood’s fire policies and procedures are also informed by recommendations arising from previous incidents of fire at the Mine. Key instances of fire at the Mine since privatisation in 1996 are outlined below.

Date	Description
21 January 2012	<p>Fire at Dredger 11’s centre chute.</p> <p>This fire was the subject of a Hazelwood report entitled “<i>11 Dredger Centre Chute Fire Incident – Final Incident Investigation Report</i>”.</p>
14 – 22 September 2008	<p>Fire on Level 5 of the South East Field.</p> <p>This fire was the subject of a report by GHD Pty Ltd (a consulting firm) dated December 2008 entitled “<i>International Power Hazelwood September 2008 Mine Fire Incident Investigation Report</i>”.</p>
12 – 18 October 2006	<p>A fire at the tail end of M620 conveyor progressed to the front of the conveyor and then to the M720 conveyor, with spot fires forming along the north side of Dredger 11.</p> <p>This fire was the subject of a GHD report dated January 2007 entitled “<i>International Power Hazelwood October 2006 Mine Fire Investigation Incident Investigation Report</i>”.</p>
30 December 2005	<p>Major fire took hold on worked out coal batters between levels 3-5 in the South East Field, extending down onto Operational Level D24.</p> <p>This fire was the subject of a Hazelwood report dated December 2005 entitled “<i>Recommendations from Mine Coal Fire December 2005</i>”.</p>

- 22 Reports in relation to the above fires were provided to the Board under cover of a letter from K&WM to the Board dated 2 May 2014.
- 23 None of the above fires was related to a bushfire.
- 24 The SECV and Generation Victoria fire policies and procedures, which Hazelwood's policies and procedures reflect, were informed by recommendations arising from the following inquiries:
- (a) the Report of the Royal Commission into the Place of Origin and the Causes of the Fires which Commenced at Yallourn⁴ on the 14th of February, 1944; and
 - (b) the Final and Summary Reports of the Review Committee in relation to the Morwell Open Cut Fire on 4, 5 and 6 November 1977.
- 25 The fires at Yallourn in 1944 were bushfire related. The fire in the Mine in 1977 was due to burning particles of coal falling from the exhaust system of a vehicle.
- 26 Hazelwood is the holder of EPA Accredited Licence No. 46436 (formerly EM30856) issued under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic) (**EP Act**), which authorises it to mine brown coal and generate electricity in a coal fired power station with a nominal generating capacity of 1600MW. The licence was issued on 30 April 1997 and was last amended on 25 October 2013. The relevant regulatory body with respect to the licence is the Environment Protection Authority Victoria.
- 27 Hazelwood is the holder of Groundwater Licence No.2007412 issued under s 51 of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic), which took effect from 1 September 1995, which authorises it to take and use up to a total of 22,892 ML of groundwater per annum from the M1 and M2 aquifers in and around the Mine to "*facilitate...generation of electrical energy and purposes incidental thereto.*" The relevant regulatory body with respect to the Groundwater Licence is Gippsland Water.
- 28 Under the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* (Vic) and the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) 2013* (Vic), Hazelwood constitutes a "specified operator", and has produced an "*Electricity Safety - Bushfire Mitigation Plan*" for period commencing 1 July 2013. The relevant regulatory body with respect to the *Electricity Safety - Bushfire Mitigation Plan* is Energy Safe Victoria.

Additional background information

- 29 Some additional background information in relation to Hazelwood prior to privatisation is as follows:
- (a) the Mine was originally established by the SECV to provide the steaming and briquetting coal requirements of Morwell Briquette and Power;

⁴ Despite the different location and nature of the Yallourn mine, the findings of this Commission were relevant to the development of the SECV and Generation Victoria policies.

- (b) works commenced at the site for the open cut in about 1949, with the excavation of coal commencing in about 1955 in what is now known as the East Field;
- (c) in about the late 1950s, the Victorian State Government determined that the Hazelwood Power Station would be established at the open cut with initial plans for the Power Station to consist of six units, each generating 200 MW;
- (d) the Hazelwood Power Station commenced operations in about 1964;
- (e) by about the early 1970s, the capacity of the Power Station was increased to eight units, each generating 200 MW;
- (f) The open cut has been developed in 4 main fields. In sequence these are:
 - a. East Field (1955 – 1980);
 - b. South-West Field (1975 – mid-1990's);
 - c. South-East Field (1992 – 2006); and
 - d. West Field (2004 – continuing).

The overlaps account for overburden operations commencing whilst coal is still being won from pre-existing fields.

- 30 The Mine and the Power Station were privatised in 1996. At that time, the operational face of the Mine was in the south east batters, near the Mine administration building.
- 31 The present features of the Mine are as follows;
- (a) the Mine Licence area currently covers approximately 3,138 hectares, with the open cut covering an area of about 1,165 hectares;
 - (b) the Mine occupies an area of a similar size as the township of Morwell;
 - (c) the perimeter of the open cut is over 18 kilometres in length;
 - (d) infrastructure within the Mine includes 4 dredgers, 100km of pipework, four coal conveyors (together, over 60kms in length), and 100km of roads;
 - (e) the Mine produces about 18 million tonnes of brown coal per year;
 - (f) that coal is supplied to Hazelwood Power Station for the purpose of electricity generation and to Energy Brix Australia Corporation Pty Ltd for the purpose of briquette production;
 - (g) the average depth of overburden is 18 metres;
 - (h) the average depth of the coal is around 85 - 100 metres;
 - (i) more than 700 million tonnes of coal have been mined since the Mine commenced operation;
 - (j) the coal is covered by overburden, made up of clay, gravel and top soil. This overburden must be removed before the coal can be mined; the Mine does not maintain any significant stores of coal. Coal once excavated is conveyed to a 'slot bunker', where it is

temporarily stored. From there it is then transported to 'crusher houses' where the coal is crushed, then transported to internal bunkers inside the Power Station where it is combusted in the Power Station. The volume of coal stored in the slot bunker if storage was at capacity would allow electricity generation to continue for approximately 8 hours without coal excavation continuing; and

- (k) the Hazelwood Power Station is a base load generator which supplies up to 25% of Victoria's electricity.

Occupational Health and Safety

- 32 The principal legal obligations in relation to the workplace health and safety of Mine personnel are outlined in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic) (**OHS Act**) and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007* (Vic) (**OHS Regulations**). The Mine is a "prescribed mine" for the purposes the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007* (Vic).
- 33 Hazelwood has established and implemented a Safety Management System for the Mine in accordance with 5.3.21 of the OHS Regulations. "Mine fire" is one of the mining hazards managed under the Mine's Safety Management System, pursuant to regulation 5.3.2(1)(j) of the OHS Regulations.
- 34 Further, "major mine fire" has been assessed by the Mine as a "major mining hazard" under the OHS Regulations as an incident with the potential to cause, or which poses a significant risk of causing, more than one death. Pursuant to regulation 5.3.23 of the OHS Regulations, the Mine has conducted a comprehensive and systematic safety assessment of major mine fire as a major mining hazard.
- 35 Hazelwood's senior management (including myself) take safe systems of work for all employees and contractors very seriously. This is so, if not more so, even when there is an emergency like the fires that impacted the Mine from 9 February 2014.
- 36 We were mindful of standard occupational health and safety practices, including carbon monoxide management, during the extreme conditions of the fire-fighting event.
- 37 Hazelwood issued a number of "Safety Blimps" (which are occupational health and safety notices) to all employees and contractors during the fire. Copies of those Safety Blimps are attached at **Annexure 1**.

Health and Safety incidents during the fire

- 38 During the entire 45 days of the fire, there were over 200 employees and contractors who worked on the fires over the period and over 7,000 visiting fire fighters (as advised by the CFA).
- 39 Despite the presence of these large numbers of people (including many who were unfamiliar with the Hazelwood) and despite the sometimes difficult and challenging work in which they

were involved, Hazelwood staff only required 2 medical treatments and 8 first aid treatments. A summary of the medical and first aid treatments is contained in **Annexure 2**. It can be seen from the summary that these events were mostly minor in nature.

40 12 Mine staff were sent to hospital as a result of high initial finger monitor CO readings. I was advised by the Hazelwood personnel who accompanied affected staff to the hospital that no employees returned unsafe CO readings when tested by the hospital.

41 Apart from issues relating to CO, the only health and safety incident that I am aware of concerning Mine employees and contractors in relation to the fire activity at the Mine was the injury to one of the 1 x 7 crew referred to in my first statement.

Attendance by WorkSafe

42 During the 45 days of the fire, there were a number of occasions on which WorkSafe came onto the site. WorkSafe's focus was, of course, on ensuring that there was a safe system of work for those involved in fighting the fire or otherwise entering the Hazelwood site.

43 At one point, WorkSafe was particularly interested in stability issues in relation to the area that I have referred to in paragraph 58 of My First Statement as "the knuckle", where some coal had cracked due to fire activity. WorkSafe was also interested in the stability of the northern batters and the groynes (the groynes are strips of land that separate storage ponds on the northern floor of the Mine).

44 WorkSafe also reviewed the operation of the CFA CO monitoring and health management plans.

45 WorkSafe's views in regards to these matters are contained in its entry reports. Copies of each WorkSafe entry report during the fire are contained in **Annexure 3**.

46 The Mine has received one improvement notice, a copy of which is at **Annexure 4**.

Observations

47 The establishment of Emergency Command Centre and the appointment of an Emergency Commander at an early stage worked well. This allowed the Mining Shift Supervisor (who would ordinarily be automatically appointed as Emergency Commander) to continue working on putting out spot fires and assist with other duties.

48 The initial appointment of Peter Lockwood from the CFA as Incident Controller happened quickly (upon the arrival of the CFA), but very co-operatively.

49 Hazelwood staff and contractors were a very willing work force and were more than willing to be dispatched to do what was safe to do to fight the fire. I think this aspect worked well as a result of some training exercises conducted between the Mine and the CFA.

50 Despite the longevity of the event, the focus and energy of all personnel remained on extinguishing the fire. This was so, even in days where there were setbacks, such as were

recovered areas reignited and when the fire came out of the Mine and headed towards the Power Station.

Community Engagement

- 51 Hazelwood has been a part of the Latrobe Valley community for over 50 years and has a long history of community sponsorships and donations.
- 52 Hazelwood's community engagement program is part of the broader GDF SUEZ Australian Energy (**GDFSAE**) Corporate Social Responsibility framework and stakeholder engagement program. This includes meetings with various community leaders, government departments, and local councils to provide regular updates on site activities and ensuring that we maintain relationships with our community.
- 53 GDFSAE directly engages with the Latrobe Valley community through four main initiatives. They are:
- (a) Donations to Landcare: This is a national network of thousands of locally-based community groups, who care for the natural resources of our country. Landcare has initiatives that focus on improving farmland and bringing back trees.
 - (b) Donations to FareShare: GDFSAE was instrumental in bringing FareShare to the Latrobe Valley. FareShare provides free, tasty, nutritious meals to Victoria's hungry, using donated food not needed by supermarkets, farmers and markets. As a result of GDFSAEs involvement, FareShare now serves over 3,000 meals per month to the hungry in the Latrobe Valley.
 - (c) Education: GDFSAE has assisted in establishing educational centres, for example in relation to the education of electrical power engineering students. Hazelwood also takes on undergraduate and post-graduate engineering students (including at the end of the second year of their four year undergraduate degree), to provide them with work experience and contribute to their university fees.
 - (d) In addition, GDFSAE is involved in a number of community sponsorships in the Latrobe Valley. Examples of these community sponsorships include sponsorship of the Gippsland Power TAC Cup team (the under 18 elite AFL team that plays in the Victorian based TAC Cup). GDFSAE also donates to the CFA and its donation to assist in the recovery from Black Saturday was approximately \$500,000. There are lots of other examples of community support, such as donations to the local kindergarten and church groups. I estimate that GDFSAE injects on average around \$500,000 into the Latrobe Valley community each year by way of such community sponsorships.

- 54 In addition, Hazelwood is one of the largest contributors to the Latrobe Valley economy, in that it:
- (a) employs approximately 500 employees directly, with salaries totalling approximately \$90 million per year;
 - (b) engages 300 contractors, with fees of approximately \$30 million to \$40 million per year; and
 - (c) purchases supplies, materials and services totalling approximately \$30 million to \$50 million per year.

Communications

Communications with the community during the fire

- 55 Hazelwood's communications response during the fire was largely shaped by our acknowledgment of the reality that in order to avoid confusion among the public during emergencies, it is important that there be a clear line of communication to the community at large. The importance of this approach is highlighted in the submission made to the Board by the Latrobe City Council.
- 56 As Incident Controller the CFA assumed the role of being the primary interface between the various organisations fighting the fire on the one hand, and between the media and key government agencies on the other hand.
- 57 During the initial stages of the fire, the CFA sought factual verification input from Hazelwood in relation to the CFA's press releases. Hazelwood contributed to those press releases by providing the requested feedback, and also by having the CFA involved in a briefing between Hazelwood and the CFA on the morning of each day during the fire in relation to fire-fighting efforts. The provision of information from Hazelwood to the CFA was effective.
- 58 With the CFA being primarily responsible for media releases about the fire-fighting effort, it allowed Hazelwood's employees and contractors to focus on fire fighting activities. With the escalating emergency at the start of the fire, all of Hazelwood's efforts were on firefighting and health and safety. No Hazelwood senior management attended any of the meetings arranged by citizens/community groups that were held at the offices of the Latrobe City Council because Hazelwood was focussed on the immediate emergency. This should not be construed as a lack of engagement with the community. It simply reflected the need for Hazelwood to effectively focus on the emergency situation, extinguish the fire and stop ash escaping from the Mine. The CFA's assumption of the media liaison role assisted this effective allocation of resources.
- 59 These community meetings were attended by the CFA. Hazelwood provided any requested information to the CFA's Incident Controller, who was responsible for keeping the media and public informed.

- 60 During the course of the fire, as a result of feedback from the public, Hazelwood recognised that the public (particularly the local community) wanted more information on the fire activity, than was being provided by the daily CFA briefings and media releases. Accordingly, Hazelwood took out a series of full page advertisements in the Latrobe Valley Express (the local paper) to inform the public in relation to the progress of the fire. The advertisements were published on 19 February 2014, 24 February 2014, 27 February 2014, 3 March 2014, 6 March 2014, 13 March 2014 and 31 March 2014. Copies of those advertisements are contained in **Annexure 5**.
- 61 Hazelwood and GDFSAE received many phone calls and complaints in relation to the fire. Hazelwood established a “hotline” within the first 4-5 days of the fire taking hold, after various reception staff had received abusive and threatening calls from the public. The telephone number was staffed by an external agency, that was given a short list of helpful answers to common questions (which were separately advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express: see Annexure 5). The short list of questions and answers is contained in **Annexure 6**. A record of all calls made to the hotline number is contained in **Annexure 7**.
- 62 If the external agency was unable to resolve a person’s query, the query was sent to Doug Day (a previously long-term Hazelwood employee who has recently undergone a role change and is now working in a procurement-related function across a number of GDFSAE sites). Given the demand on Hazelwood resources, Doug was asked to temporarily assist in management of fire-related external engagement by responding to questions and complaints from the public.
- 63 As part of this role, Doug Day directly addressed each complaint that had been made against Hazelwood. Doug’s first step in doing this was usually to return the call of the relevant complainant. During these calls, Doug would offer to meet the complainant at their house to discuss the issue further. Doug did so on several occasions. Doug was informed of some resident’s names and addresses by various staff members from Hazelwood who also lived in those heavily impacted areas, who knew their neighbours. The feedback Doug received from those telephone calls and house visits was generally positive.

Communications with local and State government

- 64 Throughout the fire, we maintained regular, almost daily contact with key stakeholders. A number of ministers (including the Premier of Victoria) and shadow ministers visited Hazelwood, to view the impact of the fire and were provided with detailed briefings.
- 65 Hazelwood prepared numerous internal employee briefings, which were made available to all staff and contractors and were also sent to various community leaders and key stakeholders, including the Honourable Russell Northe, MP (local member of Parliament), the Honourable Darren Chester, MP (Federal member of Parliament), Anne Bignell (Operations Manager, Gippsland – Department of State Development, Business and Innovation), John Mitas (General Manager Operations, Earth Resources Regulation - Department of State Development,

Business and Innovation) and Kevin Hayes (Technical Inspector, Health and Safety Operations – WorkSafe). Copies of those employee briefings are contained in **Annexure 8**.

- 66 The Honourable Russell Northe, MP was being briefed by me most days on the status and progress, mainly by telephone calls. I would call Mr Northe or he would call me. He was keen to be kept informed of the status and progress of the fire and the extinguishing efforts, and offered assistance with any issues that he could assist in resolving. It was an open communication channel. Mr Northe was encouraging and supportive of Hazelwood’s fire-fighting efforts.
- 67 John Mitchell, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Latrobe City Council was also regularly briefed by me, again by telephone, on Hazelwood’s fire-fighting efforts. John was mainly interested in the status of the fire. John told me on several occasions that he was in constant contact with the CFA.
- 68 As Incident Controller, the CFA primarily managed communications and liaison with the relevant government departments. The CFA made a number of requests during the Mine fire, such as requests for site visits and the provision of information and data including CO monitoring data. The CFA did not consult with Hazelwood regarding its communications with these government agencies. Hazelwood’s focus remained on extinguishing the fire.

Relief, clean up and recovery

- 69 The CFA, being the Incident Controller, was liaising with the relevant government agencies on issues health, air-monitoring and other associated issues. The Mine’s focus during the fire remained on extinguishing the fire and generating electricity for the State of Victoria. During that time, no Government or other agency requested assistance from us in relation to relief work.

Liaison with Health and Human Services Emergency Management

- 70 Doug Day informs me that he had regular contact with Angela Spiteri (Manager Emergency Management – South Division, Health and Human Services Emergency Management), who was leading the Health and Human Services Emergency Management relief effort. Doug offered to join the committee to assist with this role, however, his offer was not accepted.

Liaison with Council

- 71 In discussions with Latrobe City Council, Hazelwood was advised that clean-up of Morwell was being funded by the Victorian State government and was being co-ordinated by the Council.
- 72 I met with Mr Mitchell in the latter weeks of the fire, and advised him that Hazelwood wanted to contribute \$100,000 towards community asset clean-up. I was advised that a lot of relief work had already been undertaken by the Council with the funding from the Victorian Government, so I agreed with Mr Mitchell that we would hold that \$100,000 for appropriate

time to fund community events. Most of that \$100,000 has not yet been spent and remains available to fund appropriate community events.

Liaison with community

- 73 Doug Day spoke to Mr John Guy, who is the President of “Advance Morwell”, a group representing local business interests. Mr Guy called a special meeting of Advance Morwell, that was held at the Morwell Bowls club. Doug Day attended that meeting with Mr George Graham, Hazelwood’s Asset Manager. Doug and George informed those present of the status of the fire and the Mine’s efforts to extinguish it. Although Doug made me aware of this meeting, I was unable to attend it.
- 74 In the course of his discussions with the community, Doug spoke to the school council of St Vincent’s Primary School about the possibility of GDFSAE providing some funding for an excursion to the zoo and some wet-weather equipment for the students. It was decided to take the proposal for the wet-weather gear further. Before that could happen, Doug informs me that he received a call from the school and was advised that the school did not want to proceed with the proposal because of perceived problems with the politics involved.

Donations and financial initiatives

- 75 On 1 April 2014, the Mine made a donation of \$50,000 to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, to assist the community in its relief effort.
- 76 In addition to that \$50,000 donation, the Mine is currently involved in two initiatives intended to help the Morwell community recover from the impact of this fire.
- 77 First, the Mine has established a Community Social Capital Committee made up of key community group representatives at grass-roots level to identify initiatives and programs to build community social capital in Morwell. The Mine has made \$500,000 available to this Committee, which is comprised of the following community groups:
- (a) Advance Morwell;
 - (b) Rotary Club of Morwell;
 - (c) Lions Club of Morwell;
 - (d) Enjoy Church;
 - (e) Salvation Army; and
 - (f) Morwell Neighbourhood House.
- 78 Secondly, after eight weeks of planning and preparation (including consultations with the local community), Hazelwood has commenced an initiative, with vouchers available for use between 26 May 2014 and 31 May 2014, called “Revive Morwell”. It had originally been planned to commence this initiative before Mother’s Day, however it was not possible for the initiative to be implemented that quickly because of the time required for the initiative to be

set up. Under the initiative, each residential address in Morwell will receive a \$100 pre-paid card which can only be spent in the Morwell retail sector. There are 6,658 households in Morwell, so the initiative is a direct financial injection by the Mine of over \$650,000 to the Morwell retail sector. An advertisement and other material in relation to the Revive Morwell initiative are contained in **Annexure 9**.

STEVEN WILLIAM HARKINS

Dated: