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Date	Time	Location	Speakers	Subject	Comments
1/03/2014	12.30pm	ICC - Traralgon	Bob Barry (IC)	Media will be provided with an update on the	
2/03/2014	11.30am	ICC - Traralgon	Argiri Alisandratos (DHS) Paul James (AV) Craig Lapsley (FSC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO)	Media will be provided with an update on the fire fight effort and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.	<p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fire has been suppressed overnight – great success but still a lot of work in front of them Run thermal cameras over the fire and been clear we have reduced the amount of fire in the northern batters Safety of our firefighters has been critical We must acknowledge all volunteers who are supporting this incident The use of CAFS and water and in some places excavation as meant further suppression with the reduction of heat Thermal images show significant reduction It's been week by week, day by day, shift by shift progress Firefighters on 24 hr rotation have done extremely well On Tuesday preparing for stronger weather – temp and wind speeds up Any weather like that has the potential to be less effective in fire suppression but at the moment let's focus on the good work of the 24 hours Will review timelines after Tuesday, need to focus on that day as the worst weather conditions Reviewing suppression strategy tomorrow and make sure the methods we're using are effective Traditionally fire services put the fire out and look back but on day one we proactively brought in a team of experts, it's not a doubt but we There has been no movement around the princes highway I will attend the community meeting but we won't participate in a protest, we will be there to give an overview of the fire operations <p>Argiri Alisandratos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800 number is receiving lots of inquiries Significant amount of staff on the ground – from department, red cross, council of churches, LCC 2667 calls to the 1800 number, of those 2347 were for respite queries, 320 were for relocation As of 6pm last night made a total of 448 respite payments to take some time out of the smoke Total of 106 relocation payments – individual packages of support Majority of community members are choosing to make their own decision about relocation 280 appointment scheduled for today and are prioritising appointments for those who want to relocate Community has been patient given the conditions they're facing <p>Paul James:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have paramedics working in the health assessment We have assessed over 900 residents and visitors, yesterday they did health assessments on 167 residents. Of those 141 were tested for CO levels. 1 was referred to local doctor and 1 person was transported to Latrobe hospital. This morning over 50 people through already. There's health assessments for emergency service personnel and workers at the open cut, yesterday they checked 1550 in a 24 hour period – paramedics further assessed 3 and out of three, 1 transported to hospital Yesterday paramedics helped with relocation of 48 nursing home residents to three different Gippsland homes <p>Rosemary Lester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality is a little bit better than has been but in Morwell South it is still very poor so temporary relocation advice remains in place Advice for residents of other parts of Morwell or not at risk remains the same – take temporary breaks from the smoke We do sympathise with community, many are experience irritant effects of smoke however fortunately we're not seeing severe health effects. No increase in ambo call outs or presentation at hospital
3/03/2014	12pm	ICC - Traralgon	Bob Barry (IC) GDF Suez representative	To provide an update on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire including preparations for worsening weather conditions and new water pumping equipment.	<p>Bob Barry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing extremely well and strategies are working We have five priorities in order – safety of personnel and community, protection of critical infrastructure in mine, to secure northern batters, then move into southern batters, problem areas we're dealing with Crews from all over Australia working with us now Got some weather coming in overnight Tuesday and move into the mines on Wednesday morning We're preparing for that. Today we're planning resources and endeavouring to bring in additional aircraft and will bring in additional ground crew on standby to protect any infrastructure We will prepare like last Tuesday The issue on Wednesday will be the wind change, if it mixes down into the mine it will give us some issue The depth of burning across the mine is virtually surface, teams are working across batters methodically – wash down, put foam on and then have crews come behind it to blacken it Two problem areas are eastern end of northern batters which is our main priority, to secure the northern batters in depth is top of our agenda As we move into southern batters there is a very hot spot which our people are excluded from, but we are today putting in strategy to deal with One we cool it off with water bombing we can put aerial appliance and CAFS in Any indication there was already a fire in the pit? Not to my knowledge In relation to how long will be fighting fire, we can't give an accurate answer. We're moving into difficult weather but hopefully we'll have a If you look at the line scans and FLIR every time we take footage there is a definite improvement, it's like eating an elephant. It's little bit We're making sure every aspect of safety is considered and that's been consistent – health monitoring, removing from the line every 2 hours Independent geotech are working with mine geotech and show mine is operating as normal. There is some cracks from time to time but <p>Luc from mine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We sympathise with people of Morwell, we consider Hazelwood as part of the community We have a rehabilitation program in place to remove fuel out of mine Material and equipment to fight fires have not been sold off In order to rehabilitate northern batters firefighters equipment is moved to dig out the coal The state government reviews the fire preparedness plan annually and we audit ourselves Is there anything GDF could have done? All mitigation is in place, but this fire was started by an arsonist that spread into the mine Not correct that GDF have made a decision not to be involved in community meetings Organiser advised them not to attend protest meeting, but then changed to a community meeting and if they knew that they would have attended. The focus is on extinguishing fire and once that's out we will conduct our own investigation When asked about compensation – Hazelwood is part of the Morwell community, we have always been very supportive of the Morwell community and once the focus has shifted from extinguishing we will continue supporting the community like we did before. Hazelwood supplies 20 percent of energy needs, if you don't do this in a serious way how can you do this? Of course we have a safe env We have nothing to hide and will work with any inquiry Dept Prem says in talks with GDF about paying for part of fire – Luc says we are focusing on fire but after we will pull out learnings
4/03/2014		ICC - Traralgon	Bob Barry (IC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of work has been carried out in the northern batters and now starting to progress down the southern batters at the north east end, we will water bomb that in preparation for tomorrow Bring in additional resources this afternoon in preparation for tomorrow on stand by We've done a lot of planning and we're well prepared We predict from 9am tomorrow we'll get some winds that will impact the mine, could have some erratic wind behaviour with some strength behind us. It will put pressure on the southern batter We may slip backwards slightly but we're in a lot better position today than what we were last Monday. We're a lot further ahead than what we were last Monday. There are still plenty of hotspots on these batters but they're small enough for us to work on before the wind hits us tomorrow We'll start water bombing very heavily on the southern batter this afternoon for tomorrow Safety of our people, mines people and community is the number one priority We need to ensure the mine is safe before we allow our people in there The mines that are being installed hope they will be up and running Thursday, it's about taking water out of the mine – it's water in, water out The pipe work on the northern batters is fully operational, it took some time to put it in and now that it's in and operating they're enhancing The Morwell community tomorrow can expect late in the day a south westerly change with winds up for two or three hours, they will be impacted Worst case scenario for us is a run out of the mine like we had last Tuesday and if that was to impact on the power station there would be Last Tuesday stopped fire impacting bunker systems, we were on that very quickly. It was a big advantage to have the right resources in There is a risk of it happening tomorrow, all we can do it plan and prepare for it. Still a lot of work to do before giving back to GDF Suez, like I said yesterday, it's like eating an elephant. How long it will take us I can't give Working towards the end of the weekend reducing the impact to the community and concentrating on areas that are putting up the most It all depends on tomorrow, we could have five steps forward and then six steps back Reduction in smoke is due to favourable weather over last 4 days and because of work of firefighters Weather dependent – we are winning the battle
5/03/2014		Hazelwood staging area	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Bob Barry (IC) Kim Wells (Minister)		<p>Kim Wells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We know this has been frustrating for the community, firefighters and support teams but it's also frustrating that this fire was deliberately lit Police have a number of leads from the community This has been the most coordinated effort from firefighters – DEPI, CFA, Parks Vic, MFB all part of this team to put out this fire in addition we've had SA and enormous support teams The strategies that have been forward by FSC and fire chiefs are slowly starting to work, the fire is now 85% less than what it was at its peak but we will not rest until it's all out Today will be a telling day with the wind picking up, we hope the amount of resources in today will hold it Dept Prem has done the right thing calling and inquiry and will make sure all the questions the people of Morwell have will be covered off in the terms of reference The focus is getting the fire out, then we'll start working on the terms of reference

				<p>Bob Barry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today is a difficult day on the mine, the wind change came through this morning and will set us back slightly but our suppression tactics are working quite well and our team work is working well • Not a truer word spoke that this year we work as one • The wind change will put the smoke back over the Morwell community and winds will stay until 6pm • Done significant planning to cater for wind change and the period after – must stay on standby but the tension is off us • We've had no escapes with the wind change so threat to power station has reduced but will continue presence to make sure we get through day without any escape • Firefighter fatigue is always an issue for us, but the number one priority is the safety of our personnel • We change our crews every two hours, they rest for two hours, they are medically tested when they go in and out and only work 4 rotations, IMT fatigue is also managed <p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're not there yet, but we're close so to Morwell residents stick with us – the next few days will tell a story of when this fire with out • It will then become about assisting the community in the clean up • The work firefighters have done and morale is exceptional and been supported but other emergency services, it's been a team effort • It hasn't just been about water, it's foam, big trucks and little trucks, people • We'd like to hope over weekend we can say fire is out but it's too early to day but let's keep supporting our firefighters • The fire is still in small part in the northern batters, the last four days focus has been to reduce this fire – in doing that there's only a small part that's very hot • There is more fire and heat in the southern batters and they're working on that now • They have been working on northern because it's the side that impacts on the community the most • Last week we had similar wind speeds which saw fire increase and a fire out of the mine, last night here was a small grassfire near the power station which was extinguished quickly due to resources but it tells you how dynamic this situation is • Did we underestimate this fire? No, on 9th Feb fire ran down Princes Hwy and another. • Both put pressure on Hazelwood and Yallourn, additional resources (people and trucks) were brought in from that evening and we made • Paper mill was a critical fight, it was a dynamic environment on 9, 10, 11 • Paper mill and Yallourn were dealt with effectively but got no doubt we'll look back and understand fire progression better but no doubt re • Haven't had a look at mine preparedness but we're doing short review of management, protection of open cuts and will hand over to enq • Premature to make comments given extinguishing fire • Prepared to have rigorous look at fire prevention around open cut • We've moved to a different level of resourcing with multiple states and air and specialist equipment used in brown coal, no doubt the inte • Brown coal is different to black coal • Plan being developed for govt on how to assist the Morwell community in clean up and supporting households • It's critical for those relocated coming back who need to know how to clean up
6/03/2014	12.30pm	ICC - Traralgon	<p>Craig Lapsley (FSC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) Elizabeth Radcliffe (EPA)</p>	<p>Media will be provided with an update on the fire fight effort and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.</p> <p>Rosemary Lester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately air quality in south Morwell is still poor, has deteriorated after a couple of good days • Our advice to those vulnerable people living in the south of Morwell is still to strongly consider temporary relocation • Our advice to the rest of the Morwell community is the same – take regular breaks from the smoke, take medication, follow asthma plan • There continue to be opportunities for breaks including respite centre, free transport and free public events • GPs around the town are reporting increased respiratory, headaches and eye irritation – unfortunately what we'd expect from short term impacts of the smoke • Health assessment centre has seen more than 1500 people for basic health checks • Change of advice will depend on having several days of good air quality and advice from the FSC that the fire is UC • Need to be confident there won't be more flare ups and advice about clean up, that people are coming back to a clean environment • If fire is contained Monday, we'll update our advice once we're convinced the air quality is stable and then we must ensure Morwell is safe and clean for those returning <p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yesterday afternoon the fire was significantly challenged by wind speed • Yesterday I spend the afternoon in the open cut and experienced the fire escalation • It didn't extend but because quite intense and generated a lot of smoke and heat • Great work by firefighters, the held it, but there's excessive heat • The weather is currently good for firefighting but Saturday we see weather pick up but firefighters will have a strategy in place • The strategy they are using at the moment is working – foam, water from trucks and air, hose lines, mine equipment, extensive infrastructure being built • From that the issue is about smoke – we won't classify this as contained until we've got the smoke down • We're still aiming for the end of the long weekend to review that – Sunday/Monday is the aim • Last 15% is difficult and will take a number of days • Even then there will still be some smoke coming out of the mine but will be minimal • Comm engagement is key and a clean up plan must be developed, to understand what people need to do to re-enter and come back home • It's about playgrounds, streets, public and private areas • Not just about putting contained on there, but about what steps people need to go through to come back • We certainly have everything in place to achieve the aim, provided the weather is on our side • There are no reports of an existing fire in the mine, the Driffield and Hearnes Oak fires spread into the mine – it's clear it was a spot or er • It's a multimillion dollar fire, one of the most significant fires that we've had in the state – multiagency, national effort • Only a small fire in physical size but a complex one • Firefighters are doing well, changing rotations and have crews interstate • MFB shifts are doing shifts daily and rotating through career and volunteer • Still working in for 2 hours, out for 2 hours – most important way to manage health and wellbeing • UFU have been in discussions the whole way and have raised firefighter fatigue and every time we've been able to change the way we w <p>Elizabeth Radcliffe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA installing additional monitoring equipment in Morwell • Filling in the gaps of what people are asking for • Continuing to monitor smoke today, been some respite over last couple of days but smoke has come back over Morwell • Teams rotating in and out of the area
7/03/2014	9.30am	Waratah Restaurant - Morwell	<p>Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) John Merritt (EPA) Ken Lay (VicPol) Craig Lapsley (FSC)</p>	<p>Media will be provided with an update on the current operational and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.</p> <p>Rosemary Lester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in air quality is encouraging with continued progress on the fire • We're working with agencies to ensure we have sound basis before we change our recommendation for relocation in the south of Morwell • GPs in town seeing increases in eye, nose and throat irritations and respiratory issues • People in south Morwell have taken advantage of the relocation assistance provided <p>John Merritt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to monitor smoke and ash in the area and results are encouraging • Reassure community we will continue to monitor air for some time to come • Have been sampling fire water throughout incident and looking at what else needs to be assessed <p>Ken Lay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received over 100 pieces of information after call for help • Yesterday increased size of taskforce investigating • This investigation is going ahead full steam ahead and have spoken to a number of known people in the community • In this industry there is a very detailed security overlay and as part of our counterterrorism we need to review the whole industry to ensure we take every step possible to ensure electricity supply remains, as we've seen fire can cause significant issues • Still have strong police presence in areas that have relocated – residents like to see additional police in the town • Morwell is a really resilient town and they have had a difficult time, we understand this community is going to need support into the future <p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fire situation overnight has been extremely successful • Mid-week we had weather that saw increased fire intensity however suppression since then has been very successful • We would hope by the end of the weekend will have an update for the community with changed status • Will still have days ahead of smoke from the open cut • Concerned about any weather that increases temperatures and wind speeds pick up, even if we get to end of weekend with a controlled fire the resources will remain to ensure any hotspots are extinguished • My legislation allows me to review arrangements around fire • Have first meeting with Gippsland central infrastructure group to look at fire management around the open cut – the plans they use and strategic and operational things that may need improvement • Report will be back at the end of march with best practice in dealing with fire around open cut • It's reviewing the rules that are already there, not rewriting it • It's too early to call who is at fault – the fire causation is critical in discussion but we had a day of extreme fire that's conducive to fire • Brown coal industry is involved, manufacturer and water boards are involved in review • Any money provided for respite/relocation is a support payment not welfare so would hope people are using this money appropriately • Firefighter infection: the one in hand is quite serious – required surgery. Think and hope it's isolated – significant testing being done, hap • It was a small cut to a finger that was contaminated that saw hand and arm swell up • Tests come back showing it's ok to work with, not drinking water but ok to be used for firefighting

10/03/2014	12pm	Hazelwood staging area	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) John Merritt (EPA)	Media will be provided with an important update on the current operational and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.	<p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good story today, the fire is now controlled • There is no expectation of any further fire activity of significance and we estimate there won't be any fire out of the pit • There will still be some smoke coming out of the mine, we need some good rains which are predicted this weekend and if that happens it will help move from controlled to safe • Controlled doesn't mean fire services will leave the incident, they will continue to monitor and patrol • Today there are significant earth works going on, excavating to give final cooling down stages • This morning there has been significant smoke in and around Morwell but inversions do sit across the valley so smoke will hold in and around the open cut • This afternoon the inversion will lift and the smoke will clear in and around Morwell – it's a weather pattern that comes and goes • This morning IC presented a detailed definition of what controlled means and most of the fire is considered to be out • It's been 29 days of extensive fire conditions to get to this point • Hot spots are isolated so some small areas – one area of the southern batters will be monitored and worked on but don't expect it to catch • We're over the worst and now providing that advice to CHO • To move from controlled to safe we need rain, hopefully Wednesday and Saturday. If that occurs it will see us move from controlled to safe • Until that occurs our fire trucks will remain on site • We won't reduce the number of firefighters in the mine now, but over the next ten days we'll see interstate firefighters go home but MFB • Northern batters have been where the majority of work has been done and are now the coolest parts of the mine, the smoke is coming from the south • We've had fleet of vehicles in here and time to time they do have mechanical issues but that is built in the plan • All trucks are cleaned up and stowed when they leave the mine and before they head back home • No doubt there would be physical damage, it's rough terrain • There's a lot to be learnt about how we engage with communities, open cut fires, brown coal fires • It's been a national effort – first time I've seen this level of support for this incident • Toughest aspect was the first 5 days to get a real handle on the potential of this fire – we were aware but in the heart of February should have been more aware • This event will change the way we deal with brown coal open cut events – we would be foolish not to learn from this, open cuts are part of the industry • It's not just about the potential for fire but about how we plan and prepare for fire, lessons need to strengthen the relationship between community and industry • I welcome the government inquiry and will contribute anything needed • I have instigated my own inquiry into fire management which will contribute to the wider inquiry but will also have some short term changes • Hotspots are predominantly in the floor of the mine which is quite undulating so offers challenges • Until rain occurs we wouldn't be able to move from controlled to safe • Need 20mm plus of rain to extinguish • Worth recognising efforts of firefighters – Vic working with 5 states means we've had a terrific workforce • Very challenging environment, dealing with all health and safety issues, we've certainly been challenged but we've got through • The community has not seen them as they normally would so it's been really challenging but very successful. Although long, 29 days, much can be said about the success of the firefight • There were fears early that it was sub-surface, but has been a surface fire <p>John Merritt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging news about the fire and assure community monitoring work of EPA will continue • With improvement in fire conditions we've seen a dramatic improvement in air quality in the last 7 days • Today the inversion condition is another adverse impact which Valley residents will be familiar with • Notwithstanding the progress of fire, EPA will be here for a long time to come to monitor conditions • Air quality has improved significantly but these inversion conditions see it go backwards <p>Rosemary Lester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fire being controlled is one aspect we need to consider our decision, however as John advised we're working closely with them and it was encouraging to see the improvement in air quality • However due to the inversion conditions its reverted to poor equality in Morwell so my advice about temporary relocation stands • We're reviewing the advice constantly and there will be information and advice on clean up program through DHS and council • Understand it has been a very distressing and difficult time but in terms of this event we do not expect to see any long term health impacts • CO levels have been consistently low in the community • Around 600 relocation grants have been processed and about 1300 respite grants • The timeframe depends on advice of temporary relocation, we will let Dept and Edu and community know • It won't be lifted today given the air quality but we will make the announcement ASAP • I'd hoped to make it today but given air quality won't, but one piece of the puzzle is there with the fire under control • We have protocols about successive days of air quality and will liaise with the EPA on that
11/03/2014	3.30pm	ICC - Traralgon	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Bob Barry (IC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) John Merritt (EPA)	Media will be provided with a general update only on the fire and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.	<p>Steve Warrington:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the surface area fire is extinguished – working on digging out deep seated hotspots • Hopeful with a little bit of rain we'll be able to extinguish this fire • Tomorrow preparing for bushfire around broader Gippsland area. don't <p>Bob Barry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 90% there but still have a bit of work to do • A bit of a spike day today so have additional resources on the ground to deal with wind change • The weather will make the difference on when we can scale down • Rain will help settle the hot floor of the mine, but makes it dangerous for crews • Smoke will come out of the mine for some time, until things are totally secured and we can hand it back to the mine we will still have a presence in the mine • Difficult to put a timeline on the smoke, the weather influences it but we are progressing extremely well • From where we started and to see the limited fire in the batters now we have achieved great success <p>Rosemary Lester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome the announcement of the inquiry and will cooperate fully • The health of the people of Morwell has been our priority from the beginning of this incident • We understand people are keen to get back and we continue to liaise with EPA but unfortunately today the air quality isn't so good • Around 600 relocation grants have been issued • I understand it has been a difficult and frustrating time with people suffering typical symptoms from the smoke • The air quality over past couple of days has not been nearly as bad as in the early stages of the fire but we do want to make sure that the air quality is good before we lift the relocation recommendation • Examining whether we need to do long term health study • A lot of things would determine that, the people of Morwell – any study must be done with the full consent and not cause stress to people of Morwell <p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome the inquiry – Bernard Teague has been well involved in fire over the years • He has an ability to understand connected communities – he is a person who believes, listens and takes community feeling as key to the inquiry • I'm also conducting a small review about fire prevention around mines • How do we see brown coal open cut mines existing in the environment in the future? We need to learn how to work with them and must be focused on the community in long duration fires with smoke over communities. • The Morwell community has certainly shown a level of frustration with understanding fire • One thing is always about getting timely information to the community • In many aspects we have trouble communicating the complexities of these fires • 7000 firefighters have been on site – some have returned for multiple shifts • Because the community can't see them they wouldn't have an idea of what's happening in the open cut – that's been a challenge, how to show this • We're into the final stages, a good step yesterday to go to controlled, but definitely still 7 days work in it. 24 hour shifts will operate until
12/03/2014	2.30pm	Latrobe Valley airbase	Craig Lapsley (FSC) CEO of Latrobe City John Mitchell Wayne Rigg	Small business owners and community leaders will be invited to go on a helicopter flight over the Hazelwood mine to provide them with the opportunity to see the scale of the incident and emphasise the strong relationships required between the emergency services, local government and businesses before, during and after an event such as this. Media will be provided with a general update at the Latrobe Valley Air Base Terminal on the fire situation at the Hazelwood mine.	<p>Craig Lapsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last 24 hours of firefighting has been good, the rain helped, but wasn't exceptional in the fire extinguishment • Using earth moving equipment and thermal cameras to secure any hot spots before moving it to safe hopefully on Tuesday • Do still have one day of concern on the weekend to make sure the fire doesn't move at all • Good thing is significant rain expected Saturday night and Sunday • Going to fly business representatives today and an extension to Friday's business breakfast • The main idea is to show people of Morwell the fire – understand the size and operations • Aircraft has been absolutely vital but can't do it alone, has support of ground crews • Biggest operation we've seen in Victoria for many years <p>John Mitchell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus is on understanding business needs • Interview over 200 business owners in Morwell • Working with government in rolling out projects in CBD – clean up of areas • In the process of working with vulnerable community to provide cleaning services • Varies from business to business but it's down 30-50% • Government has been very receptive and responsive to our needs <p>Wayne Rigg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining helicopters and how the work in the incident • 3000 litre per load, pulling water out of mine and into fire to support ground crews • Flying for 8 hours a day, putting out 6000 litres every three minutes • Could put half a million litres on the fire a day

13/02/2014	10.15am	Ronaldson Reserve football oval	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Firefighters School children	Hundreds of primary school children in Morwell will have the opportunity to thank firefighters when three water-bombing aircraft land in the Ronald Reserve. Trucks from the CFA Traralgon brigades and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service will also be on show.	Craig Lapsley • Today is all about the kids – school children coming and seeing what the firefighters have done in the mine, seeing the helicopters and big gear • It's filling the gap – we haven't been able to see the firefighters • It's important that the kids get to see some of it and being at the end of this we know it's been hard • The fire is looking alright, the southern batter with the knuckle still has a lot of heat in it • The inversion has lifted so the air is a bit clearer • This morning we're excavating and then the helicopters will be back in the air • As the gear comes out of the mine and go home we'll get them into the schools as well • This is something kids will remember for their life, they see fires as heroes and giving high fives and asking smart questions • Still all hands on deck, couple of trucks had to go back (2 aviation) but apart from that have night shift, all on deck, 200 firefighters
14/03/2014	1.30pm	Community Health Assessment Centre	Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) Steve Warrington (RC)	Media will be given a general update on the current fire and health situation from the Hazelwood open cut mine fire. The health information will include advice on proper handling of the ash for residents who have already commenced cleaning up and general clean up advice.	Steve Warrington: • Most of the surface area fire is extinguished – working on digging out deep seated hotspots • Hopeful with a little bit of rain we'll be able to extinguish this fire • Tomorrow preparing for bushfire around broader Gippsland area, don't anticipate issues with mine itself • Business as usual finding hotspots • 95% is extinguished, 2 hotspots left, one extinguished last night, still a lot of heat and smoke but no fire • Most is just hot, only one part left with fire • Work now is about finding deeper bedded fire, digging it up and extinguishing. None would be deeper than a metre • Its envisaged there will be hotspots here for some time, rain will help us • Confident before Tuesday all the surface will be extinguished but still have hot spots • Hotspots could burn for weeks but we will continue to dig them up, normal process • We will transition and already working with DHS to move to recovery but we work all together, we don't walk away. Fire agencies will remain • We love rain, about 10mm forecast for Saturday night/Sunday • No doubt rain will help us. especiallv on the base of the mine Rosemary Lester: • Unfortunately the air quality over the last couple of days has not been good enough for us to lift our temporary relocation advice • I think we're almost there but it just hasn't been consistently good enough • Constantly reviewing this • Produced some additional advice about cleaning up for those returning home and those who have remained • Might be a good idea to wear a mask while cleaning up • Ash itself is not toxic and it's fine to dig it into your garden • When cleaning try not to spread the ash around – wet mopping and dusting • Don't use leaf blowers outside • Indoors use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and Latrobe City have them to loan • I wouldn't anticipate lifting the advice before Monday – needs to be several days of good air quality from the EPA • People are still coming to the health assessment centre but attendance has dropped off • It would be better for vulnerable people to have help in cleaning up but if not an option wear mask, gloves, gown • DHS has given out over 600 first relocation grants and 270 second grants – shows people have heard the message
17/03/2014	1pm	Latrobe City Council	Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) Craig Lapsley (FSC) John Merritt (EPA) LCC representative	Media will be given an important update on the current fire and health situation from the	
18/03/2014	9.30am	Council chambers, Morwell	Denis Napthine (Premier) Peter Ryan (Dept Premier) Craig Lapsley (FSC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) John Merritt (EPA)	Recovery initiatives announcement	
19/03/2014	1pm	ICC	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Argiri Alisandratos (DHS) Bob Barry (IC) John Merritt (EPA)	Media will be provided with an update on the current fire situation and clean-up operations.	
20/03/2014	10:30am	46 - 48 Albert Street, Tangil Place Medical Centre, Moe.	John Merritt (EPA) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) Agiri Alisandratos (DHS)	Media will be provided with a run down on EPA's air monitoring program in Morwell, Moe and	
21/03/2014	9.20am	Morwell football oval at Ronald Reserve (access via Vary Street, Morwell)	Peter Ryan (Dept Premier) Craig Lapsley (FSC) Bob Barry (IC) Firefighters Students	Three water-bombing helicopters will land in front of hundreds of Morwell primary school students on Friday as part of the fire services' school engagement	
25/03/2014	1pm	ICC	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Mark Potter (RD)	Media will be given an important update of the	
26/03/2014	11am	Prezioso Transport, 2 McQuade St Morwell	Craig Lapsley (FSC) Dr Rosemary Lester (CHO) Rick Reed (CFA)	Media are invited for a photo and vision opportunity of re-commissioned fire trucks as they come out of operation in the	