



# Hazelwood Mine Fire Community Information

## Victorian Government and Latrobe City Council staff are working to provide information and support to people affected by the Hazelwood Open Cut Mine Fire.

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Victorian Government is providing a \$2 million community assistance package to help Morwell residents continue the clean-up.

Home and Community Care (HACC) clients, 'high needs' residents and those who recently received relocation assistance from DHS will have their properties professionally cleaned.

Morwell residents can call the Latrobe City Council Recovery Hotline on **1800 017 777** to:

- receive a clean-up kit with information about how to clean
- request laundry and car wash vouchers
- loan cleaning items including HEPA filter vacuum cleaners.

### HEALTH INFORMATION

The Chief Health Officer has lifted the temporary relocation advice, and people can now return to their homes and workplaces.

For health information visit [health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au).

#### HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTRE

The **Community Health Assessment Centre** at the Regional Office of Ambulance Victoria Gippsland at 2 Saskia Way, Morwell is open from 10am to 6pm until Sunday 30 March. If you need medical care after this time, see your doctor or go to the Latrobe Regional Hospital.

#### NURSE-ON-CALL

You can discuss any health related issues with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the cost of a local call on **1300 60 60 24**.

#### AIR QUALITY

The EPA is continuing its air quality monitoring in the Latrobe Valley and is issuing regular updates. The EPA will issue a smoke advisory notice if you need to take action.

For air quality updates and forecasts, visit [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au) or call **1300 372 842**.

### CLEANING UP ASH

The materials in the ash from this fire are similar to what is in the soil in your garden and the ash you'd find in a fireplace.

Ash can be safely dug into your garden or added to compost. Ash can also be placed in a plastic bag or other container and then put in your household garbage bin.

Wear gloves, long sleeved shirts and long pants to stop ash sticking to your skin and wear glasses or goggles to stop ash getting into your eyes. If there is a lot of ash, wear a facemask.

If you have an existing lung condition, such as asthma, breathing in ash during cleaning-up could make that condition worse, so it's best to get help to clean and avoid the ash.

#### ASBESTOS WARNING

High pressure hoses **must not** be used to clean materials containing asbestos. Assume any material installed before 1990 contains asbestos. For more information, visit [asbestos.vic.gov.au](http://asbestos.vic.gov.au).

Information and advice about cleaning up ash is available from:

Latrobe City Council Recovery Hotline:  
**1800 017 777**.

Department of Health: [health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au).

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The **Community Information and Recovery Centre** at 22 Hazelwood Road, Morwell is open from 9am until 5.30pm daily and offers a one-stop-shop for clean-up equipment, support and information from Latrobe City Council and the Department of Human Services.

### BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Grants are available for Morwell businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Call the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry on **8662 5487** or visit [vecci.org.au](http://vecci.org.au).

Vital information, support and free mentoring are available for Morwell small business operators, including specialised coaching and advice at the Mobile Business Centre and tailored support for Morwell businesses through Small Business Workshops.

For more information and dates for the Mobile Business Centre and Small Business Workshops, visit [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au) or call Small Business Victoria on **13 22 15**.

#### HEALTH ADVICE FOR WORKPLACES

For information and advice on workplace safety, phone the Victorian WorkCover Authority Advisory Service on **1800 136 089**.

#### CLEANING UP ASH

The Victorian WorkCover Authority has developed guidance material to assist businesses cleaning up ash. Visit [worksafe.vic.gov.au/hazelwood](http://worksafe.vic.gov.au/hazelwood).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL RECOVERY HOTLINE 1800 017 777**