

# news release



Wednesday, 30 April 2014

## LONG-TERM HEALTH STUDY COMMUNITY SESSIONS

The Morwell community and health professionals have been invited to express their views on the extended study into the potential long-term health impacts of the Hazelwood coal mine fire.

The sessions will be held by the Department of Health in Morwell next Tuesday, May 6.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester said a substantial and extended study into the potential health impacts of the open cut mine fire would seek to measure the impacts on heart and lung disease, cancers, mental health outcomes and the birth weight of newborn babies.

"The study will be carried out by an independent research organisation which will engage and consult the community in and around Morwell," Dr Lester said.

"The community and health professional consultation sessions will provide an opportunity for us to gauge their opinions on the types of conditions which are of concern to them.

"We will call for submissions from suitable research organisations to conduct the study in coming weeks after we've considered the views of the community," Dr Lester said.

The details for the consultation sessions are:

When: Tuesday 6 May 2014  
(Session 1) 1.30pm-3.00pm  
(Session 2) 6.30pm-8pm  
Health professionals are invited to attend a session at 4.30-6.00pm  
Where: Italian Australian Club, 499 – 501 Princes Drive, Morwell

Anyone wishing to attend should register through Wendy on 5177 2567 or email [DH.Gippsland@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:DH.Gippsland@health.vic.gov.au).

Those wishing to express their view but unable to attend the consultation sessions should visit [www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hazelwood) to contribute online.

### **Media inquiries:**

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