



Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

30 June 2015

By email: peter.stewart@vgso.vic.gov.au
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Mr Peter Stewart
Victorian Government Solicitor
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office
PO Box 4356
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Stewart

Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

As you are aware, a Board of Inquiry is being held into the Hazelwood Mine Fire of February 2014 and other matters pursuant to Terms of Reference ('TOR') dated 26 May 2015. The Inquiry is being conducted pursuant to Part 3 of the *Inquiries Act 2014* (Vic.).

Your particular attention is drawn to paragraph 11 of the TOR. Paragraph 11 asks the Board of Inquiry to inquire into and report on "sustainable, practical and effective options that could be undertaken by the mine operator to decrease the risk of fire arising from or impacting the Anglesea Mine for the 2015/2016 summer season, noting the impending closure of the mine on 31 August 2015". The Board is required to report on these matters by 31 August 2015.

The Board of Inquiry seeks a witness statement from Andrew Rankin, the Captain of the Anglesea brigade of the Country Fire Authority ('CFA').

It is the intention of the Board to hold a public hearing on 30 and 31 July 2015 to examine this particular paragraph of its TOR. Mr Rankin will be called to give evidence about the matters listed below at that public hearing pursuant to s. 64 of the *Inquiries Act 2014* (Vic.).

In preparation for that public hearing, the Board of Inquiry seeks from Mr Andrew Rankin a witness statement that addresses the matters listed below.

Please provide the statement no later than **Tuesday 14 July 2015**, in both hard copy and electronic form.

In addition to addressing the questions below, Mr Rankin may include in his statement any other matter that he considers will assist the Board in inquiring into the matters specified in paragraph 11 of its TOR. The statement should attach supporting documents including entry reports, notices, minutes, maps, plans, diagrams and photographs as necessary.

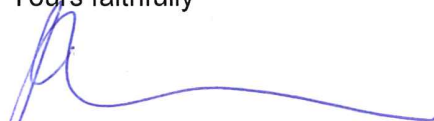
Questions

1. Briefly describe your role at the Anglesea CFA brigade.
2. What is your experience of attending fires at the Anglesea mine?
3. What is your experience of attending fires in the Anglesea Heath?

4. What arrangements are currently in place between the Anglesea CFA brigade and the operator of the Anglesea mine in relation to attendance by the brigade at a fire at the mine?
5. Have those arrangements been reviewed by the Anglesea CFA brigade in light of the announcement on 12 May 2015 concerning the closure of the mine on 31 August 2015? For example,
 - (a) How will the CFA access the mine site if there is a fire there after 31 August 2015?
 - (b) Who will escort fire-fighters around the mine site after 31 August 2015 if they attend the mine?
6. Has the Anglesea CFA brigade been notified of any review by the mine operator of the mine's emergency management plan in light of the mine closure decision?
7. Has the mine operator provided the Anglesea CFA brigade with any documented assessments that it has carried out, or has arranged for others to carry out, of those strategies including risk assessments and technical reviews? If so, please describe those documents.
8. Is the Anglesea CFA brigade satisfied that the mine operator will have in place at the time of the mine closure arrangements that reduce the risk of fire arising from or impacting the mine that are sustainable, practical and effective?

Please contact me by email at justine.stansen@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au or by phone on 8689 0576 if you have any questions concerning this request.

Yours faithfully



Justine Stansen
Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry