



Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

2 July 2015

By email: peter.stewart@vgso.vic.gov.au
andrew.suddick@vgso.vic.gov.au

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 Craig Lapsley, the Emergency Management Commissioner for the State of Victoria.

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 Lapsley 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 Lapsley a witness statement that addresses the matters listed below.

Please provide the statement no later than **Tuesday 17 July 2015**, in both hard copy and electronic form.

In addition to addressing the questions below, Mr Lapsley 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 with the Surf Coast Taskforce (**Taskforce**)?
2. How and why did the Taskforce start?
3. Describe the Taskforce meetings as they have related to the risk of fire at the Anglesea mine.

4. What discussions have you and/or the Taskforce had with Alcoa regarding fire mitigation at the Anglesea mine post 31 August 2015?
5. As the Emergency Management Commissioner, are you satisfied that Alcoa has in place sustainable, practical and effective measures to deal with the risk of fires arising from or impacting the mine for the 2015/2016 fire season? If so, why?
6. If not, why? What could Alcoa do to make you satisfied that the risk is being appropriately managed?

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