



Coroners Court of Victoria

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15 July 2015

Monica Kelly
Health Lead
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Secretariat
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

RE: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry – Request for Documents

Dear Ms Kelly

I write on behalf of State Coroner Judge Ian L Gray, in response to Prof John Catford's request dated 17 June 2015 for:

[...] information (either by way of production of documents or by provision of a written statement or both) regarding any deaths which have been alleged or found to have been related (in any way) to the Hazelwood Mine Fire of 2014 ("the Fire"). This would include any deaths in which this issue has arisen as part of a coronial inquiry or investigation – whether or not a finding was made that the Fire contributed to the death.

Having made appropriate inquiries, I was unable to identify any death investigated by a Victorian coroner between 9 February 2014 and the present where a link between the death and the 2014 Hazelwood Mine Fire was alleged, established or otherwise discussed. I note that a number of Victorian deaths reported on or after 9 February 2014 are still under coronial investigation; I have been unable to review the evidence in each such death for mention of the Hazelwood Mine Fire, and therefore I must acknowledge the possibility that I failed to identify relevant deaths.

I have enclosed a copy of the Determination that Coroner Jacqui Hawkins delivered on 11 November 2014 in response to requests for the Coroners Court of Victoria (CCOV) to investigate the Hazelwood Mine Fire. The Determination is not directly relevant to Prof Catford's 17 June 2015 request, however might be useful as background information.

Additionally, I note that on 1 December 2014 the CCOV provided certain material regarding deaths in the Latrobe Local Government Area to then Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester PSM. The material was provided in response to a Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry related request. I have not enclosed the material because it does not appear to be relevant to Prof Catford's 17 June 2015 request, however I would be pleased to forward the material if needed.

For clarification regarding the contents of this letter please contact me at any time on my direct number 03 8688 0780 or via email: <jeremy.dwyer@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au>.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers to the right.

Jeremy Dwyer
Acting Manager Coroners Prevention Unit
Coroners Court of Victoria