

From: Justine Stansen
To: [REDACTED] "[Ariane Wilkinson](#)"; "[Felicity Millner](#)"; "[Robert Perry](#)"
Cc: "[Ruth Shann](#)"; "[Peter Rozen](#)"
Subject: RE: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 3:46:00 PM
Attachments: [Re Hazelwood Inquiry.msg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[RE Hazelwood Inquiry.msg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Dear all

I refer to my email below. Please see **attached** emails from Dr Flander and Professor Armstrong.

Kind regards

Justine Stansen
Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry



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From: Justine Stansen
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 3:43 PM
To: [REDACTED] 'Ariane Wilkinson'; 'Felicity Millner'; 'Robert Perry'
Cc: 'Ruth Shann'; 'Peter Rozen'
Subject: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

Dear all

Further to email correspondence and my letters to you sent 30 September 2015, I confirm that the Board is sitting at 9am on Thursday, 15 October 2015 at Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne in Court 2. The Board will hear further evidence from Associate Professor Barnett, Professor Armstrong, Professor Gordon and Dr Flander.

The Board has circulated to you the emails and documents sent and received from Associate Professor Barnett, Professor Armstrong and the Secretariat to date. The same has been provided to Dr Flander and Professor Gordon through Environmental Justice Australia (see **attached**). The Board has requested that Dr Flander and Professor Gordon provide a short report to the Board by tomorrow afternoon. Those reports will be circulated to all parties as soon as they are received. Professor Armstrong has been requested to provide any further comments to the last email received from Associate Professor Barnett by tomorrow afternoon also. Counsel Assisting intends to tender each of documents and correspondence at the further hearing.

The Board has received correspondence from some of the parties in relation to the further hearing. The letter received from solicitors for GDF Suez dated 6 October 2015 was circulated to the parties on 8 October 2015 together with a response from Associate Professor Barnett to questions posed in that letter. The Board has also received correspondence from the solicitors for Dr Lester. Copies of those letters, together with my response, are **attached**.

It has been suggested to the Board by the solicitors for Dr Lester that it also hear from Professor Abramson in the hearing on Thursday. The Board declines that suggestion on the basis that at no stage has Professor Abramson reviewed the Births Deaths and Marriages data and conducted any statistical analysis of same (see T363:21-29). It is not appropriate for Professor Abramson to give evidence on the subject matter.

The solicitors for Dr Lester also ask for clarification on two further matters:

1. What communication took place between 11 and 15 September 2015 between the Secretariat and Associate Professor Barnett; and
2. What communications were had with Associate Professor on or around 31 August 2015 in relation to the provision of the Births Deaths and Marriages data.

In answer to the first question, copies of all email correspondence have been provided. As is referenced in the email from Associate Professor Barnett sent 15 September 2015, Counsel Assisting had a brief conversation on that day in which she indicated that the work completed by Associate Professor Barnett should be sent to the Secretariat rather than having it published due to the sensitivity of the data upon which it relied.

In answer to the second question and as noted in my letter dated 9 October 2015 to the solicitors for Dr Lester, it became apparent at the joint expert meeting that Associate Professor Barnett had not been provided with this data when undertaking his earlier reports. In order to ensure that each of the experts had the same data, a copy of the data was downloaded on a USB and provided to Associate Professor Barnett at the completion of the meeting. Associate Professor downloaded the data and handed back the USB. No correspondence was provided.

I will circulate in advance a list of the documents that Counsel Assisting will seek to tender at the further hearing.

Please contact me if you have any question in relation to the further hearing.

Kind regards

Justine Stansen

Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry



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From: [Louisa Flander](#)
To: [Justine Stansen](#)
Subject: Re: Hazelwood Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 3:29:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Justine

My short report on the fourth paper (Barnett, 25 September 2015) follows:

1. The methods used in this analysis appear to be correct.
2. The results presented in this analysis appear to be correct, subject to the following reservations about the way results are presented:
3. I have concerns about the lack of communication of uncertainty around estimates in this report. I suggest the following statements may be a fuller and more accurate representation of the results:
 1. The analysis shows 99% confidence that there were more than zero additional deaths associated with the 45 days of the fire, beyond the usual fluctuations captured in the model.
 2. The analysis shows 95% confidence (in the form of credible intervals) that between 2 and 46 additional deaths were associated with the 45 days of the fire, beyond the usual fluctuations captured in the model (Table 2).
 3. The best estimate of the analysis is 23 additional deaths associated with the 45 days of the fire, beyond the usual fluctuations captured in the model (Table 2).
4. The increase in explanatory power in this analysis may be due to the inclusion of the postcode as an extra predictor variable. One of the 'usual fluctuations' captured in this model is that daily deaths tend to be higher in postcodes 3825 (Moe) and 3840 (Morwell), and tend to be lower in postcodes 3842 (Churchill) and 3844 (Traralgon) across the entire data set.
5. Temperature may also be a useful variable for explaining fluctuations, but given its absence from Table 2 and its presentation in Figure 3, I cannot tell whether it is statistically significant in this analysis. I do not see any representation of uncertainty around the relative risk values plotted in Figure 3.
6. Given that the results are based on a much larger dataset compared to previous reports, covering the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2014, some discussion of the effect this may have on the improved estimate of additional mortality is warranted.

Kind regards

Louisa

Dr Louisa Flander
[REDACTED]

Senior Research Fellow,
Centre for Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Melbourne School of Population & Global Health,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Justine Stansen [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 12 October 2015 3:54 pm
To: Louisa Flander [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hazelwood Inquiry

Thank you Louisa.

From: Louisa Flander [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 3:52 PM
To: Justine Stansen
Subject: Re: Hazelwood Inquiry

Dear Justine

I will provide a short report (in the form of my email response) in relation to the Barnett report dated 25 September 2015, by 4pm 13 October,

Kind regards
Louisa

Dr Louisa Flander
[REDACTED]

Senior Research Fellow,
Centre for Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Melbourne School of Population & Global Health,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Justine Stansen [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 12 October 2015 12:54 pm
To: Louisa Flander [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hazelwood Inquiry

Dear Louisa

Further to my email below, please see **attached** correspondence from Associate Professor Barnett and Professor Armstrong.

The Board would be grateful if you could provide a short report in relation to the fourth report of Associate Professor Barnett dated 25 September 2015 and any other matter you think would be useful to the Board. The Board is interested in your opinion as to whether you agree or disagree with the methodology used and conclusions reached by Associate Professor Barnett. It would be grateful if your report could be provided by 4pm, tomorrow (13 October 2015). Please let me know if you can accommodate this request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Justine Stansen

**Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry**



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From: Justine Stansen

Sent: Thursday, 1 October 2015 10:43 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Hazelwood Inquiry

Thanks [Louisa](#)

Sent by [Outlook](#) for Android

On Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 3:12 PM -0700, "Louisa Flander" [Redacted] wrote:

Dear Justine

I confirm receipt of the additional materials, and my availability for 15 October 2015,

Kind regards

Louisa

Dr Louisa Flander



Senior Research Fellow,
Centre for Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Melbourne School of Population & Global Health,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Justine Stansen [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 30 September 2015 8:45 pm
To: Louisa Flander [REDACTED]
Subject: Hazelwood Inquiry

Dear Louisa

I refer to Term of Reference 6 and the recent public hearings held on 1-3 and 9 September 2015. During the course of those hearings two reports prepared by Associate Professor Barnett were tendered.

On 11 September 2015, Associate Professor Adrian Barnett contacted the Secretariat and indicated that he was undertaking further analysis of the daily death data provided to him prior to the hearing and that he intended to produce a further report that he wished to publish.

On 15 September 2015, Associate Professor Barnett provided that third report to the Board. On 17 September 2015, the Board sought the views of Professor Armstrong concerning the third report of Associate Professor Barnett. Professor Armstrong's comments in relation to the third report were provided to the Board on 18 September 2015 and were forwarded to Associate Professor Barnett by the Board in an email dated 24 September 2015. On 25 September 2015, Associate Professor provided a fourth report to the Inquiry.

Copies of the correspondence described above and the third and fourth reports of Associate Professor Barnett are **attached**. Copies of the reports and the correspondence will also be provided to all experts who gave evidence at the hearing in relation to Term of Reference 6.

The Board will holding a short further hearing to consider this additional evidence held on **15 October 2015 from 9.00 am** in Melbourne. The hearing will take place on level 11, 222 Exhibition St Melbourne. The Board requests that all experts who gave evidence in the early September hearing appear again as witnesses as a panel and will be questioned about this new material by Counsel Assisting and any other party.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are available to appear at the hearing on 15 October 2015.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact me.

Kind regards

Justine Stansen
Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry
[REDACTED]



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From: [Bruce Armstrong](#)
To: [Justine Stansen](#)
Subject: RE: Hazelwood Inquiry
Date: Monday, 12 October 2015 10:10:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thank you Justine. I have no further comments.

Bruce

BRUCE ARMSTRONG
Emeritus Professor, School of Public Health
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Senior Adviser
THE SAX INSTITUTE
Chairman
BUREAU OF HEALTH INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

From: Justine Stansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 2:17 PM
To: Bruce Armstrong
Subject: Hazelwood Inquiry

Dear Bruce

Please see attached email from Associate Professor Barnett. If you have any additional comments to make in relation to the attached, could you please provide them by 4pm tomorrow (13 October 2015).

Many thanks

Justine Stansen
Principal Legal Advisor
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

[REDACTED]

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