

**From:** Justine Stansen  
**To:** ["Fay Johnston"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 16 October 2015 3:14:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Letter to Dr Johnston 16.10.15 \(conf\).pdf](#)

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Apologies Fay – letter now attached.

I will speak with Counsel Assisting with respect to your comments below.

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**From:** Fay Johnston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 October 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** Justine Stansen  
**Subject:** RE: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

Thank you for the documents Justine,

Your letter to me was actually addressed to Adrian Barnett. I don't know if you want to resend addressed to me?

I also have a query about the list of questions for discussion and resolution at Mondays meeting. I note that none of the questions ask about the role of exposure to air pollution from the fire in affecting mortality in the Latrobe Valley. The questions relate to mortality associations with the time period of the mine fire, with the mine fire itself, but not with smoke or air pollution from the fire. These are all different things and I believe possible mortality associations with air pollution from the fire is worthy of specific discussion. It is also my main area of expertise and where I will be best able to contribute.

Kind regards

Fay Johnston

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**From:** Justine Stansen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 October 2015 1:43 PM  
**To:** Fay Johnston  
**Subject:** Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

Dear Dr Johnston

Please see letter and confidential attachments.

Justine Stansen  
**Principal Legal Advisor**  
**Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry**

[REDACTED]

cid:image001.jpg@01D0BF00.FDC13FB0



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16 October 2015

By email: [REDACTED]

Dr Fay Johnston  
Senior Research Fellow  
Menzies Research Institute Tasmania

Dear Dr Johnston

### Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

This letter confirms arrangements made recently with you in which you have kindly agreed to participate in two further aspects of the Inquiry's work on Term of Reference 6:

- An expert's meeting between 12pm-3pm on Monday 19 October 2015 (final details to come later today);
- Giving evidence at a public hearing in Melbourne on Thursday 22 October 2015 (and potentially Friday 23 October 2015).

#### Experts Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to see if the participants are able to reach agreement on some or all of the questions set out below.

The meeting will be facilitated by Ms Monica Kelly, the Inquiry's Health Lead.

To the extent that agreement can be reached, Ms Kelly will document it in a joint report that each participant will be asked to sign as an indication that it is an accurate record of the agreement. Any such joint report will be part of the evidence before the Inquiry and will be provided to interested parties in advance of the public hearing on 22 October 2015.

The confirmed participants to the expert's meeting are: Professor Armstrong, Professor Gordon, Associate Professor Barnett, Dr Flander, Dr Faye Johnston and Dr Philip McCloud. There may be some additional participants which we will advise in due course.

Copies of correspondence received from Dr McCloud are **attached**.

#### Datasets

Analyses have been based on daily data obtained from the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages (RBDM). The date that that data was extracted from the RBDM (and the type of data requested) can influence the exact numbers of deaths recorded. The reasons for this are explained in the statement of Ms Dawn Sims on the Inquiry's website at:

<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/WIT.0002.001.0001.pdf>.

The Inquiry has three sets of this data. The first was extracted in late 2014 and provided to the Department of Health and Human Services. The second was extracted in July 2015 and the third was extracted in October 2015.

We provide each of these sets to you at this time in order to ensure each expert has access to the same data and each has access to all the data held by the Inquiry.

These data sets contain private information and must not be disclosed or published without the permission of the Inquiry.

### **Questions for the Experts Meeting**

***To be answered only to the extent that your expertise allows you to do so.***

1. Do you agree with Associate Professor Barnett's conclusions that:
  - a. There is a 99% probability of an increase in deaths during the 45 days of the fire?
  - b. With an estimated 23 additional deaths?
2. Do you agree with the methodology used by Associate Professor Barnett to reach those conclusions?
3. Do you agree with the way in which Associate Professor Barnett has presented his conclusions?
4. For those who have previously given evidence to the Inquiry, has the additional analysis undertaken by Associate Professor Barnett and any commentary done on that analysis altered your previous opinions? If so, how?
5. Having regard to the reports of Associate Professor Barnett dated September, 25 September and 9 October 2015 and commentary on them undertaken by Professor Armstrong, Professor Gordon, Dr Flander and Dr McCloud:
  - a. Was there an increase in mortality in the Latrobe Valley during the coal mine fire in 2014?
  - b. If yes, did the coal mine fire contribute to the increase in mortality?

Please contact me by email at [REDACTED] or by phone on [REDACTED] you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



**Justine Stansen**  
Principal Legal Advisor  
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

