



CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING & ENERGY UNION  
MINING & ENERGY DIVISION  
VICTORIAN DISTRICT BRANCH

██████████  
██████████  
Telephone ██████████

Facsimile ██████████  
██████████  
██████████



1 October 2015

Ms. Justine Stansen  
Principal Legal Advisor  
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

Dear Ms. Stansen

### **Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September 2015 in which you asked a number of questions. I have attempted to respond to those questions in the same order, as below:

1. As a result of information, press releases and enquiries we, the CFMEU Mining & Energy, circulated a letter to our entire Latrobe Valley membership detailing the services currently being made available by the State Government, i.e. the Public Lung Function Clinic, the Mine Fire Health Clinic and the Hazelwood Health Study. (Please see copy attached). We did this because we believed our entire Latrobe Valley based membership would have been exposed to differing degrees and now believe our members should be included in the Long Term Health Study.
2. The CFMEU Mining & Energy members working at the Hazelwood site weren't exclusively in the employ of GDF Suez. We also had members working for Diamond Protection, Menzies, O&M Earthworks and RTL (Roche, Thiess, Linfox) throughout the period of the fire. In total the CFMEU Mining & Energy had approximately three hundred and fifty-one (351) members at the site, two hundred and eighty-three (283) of which weren't residents of Morwell.
3. To this point in time the CFMEU Mining & Energy, other than the aforementioned advisory letter to our members, has not made any formal approach to be included in the study.
4. We have received a number of telephone, counter and personal responses from members. No written responses.
5. The CFMEU is not aware of any internal programs, studies or other mechanisms being made available to our members by GDF Suez for the purpose of Health Studies in either the short or long term. The CFMEU have had informal discussions with management with regards to a "letter of potential exposure" being issued to every individual that worked within the Hazelwood Mine during the period of the fire.
6. Whilst the CFMEU Mining & Energy membership represents a significant percentage of the entire workforce working within the Mine area during the period that the fire was burning. The CFMEU Construction & General, ETU, AMWU also had members working at the site.

Equally people such as staff etc. who are unaffiliated with any registered organisation remained working during the course of the fire.

The CFMEU Mining & Energy believe, and it is reflected in the number of our own members who don't reside within the Morwell area, many people who were working within the immediate vicinity during the fires, inclusive of our staff and those employed by nearby businesses along Lignite Court and Hazelwood Drive would not necessarily reside in the Morwell area.

Having regard for the above we would ask that all services, studies etc. being offered to residents of Morwell also be offered to those non-residential employees who were working in the vicinity during the course of the fire.

Further, we would seek that the Inquiry recommend that all businesses who continued to conduct their normal operations during the fire, inclusive of GDF Suez, provide employees with a "letter of potential exposure". Such a letter would provide reassurance in the advent of future medical conditions being recognized as attributable to the fire.

Thank you

Luke van der Meulen

President

