

Hazelwood open cut mine fire – health study

Community survey form

Summary

General

- 23 surveys completed; one email with feedback received
- 2 of the online survey responses probably completed as tests
- Of the automatically emailed responses from the online survey, 3 were duplicates

Response type

Online:	18
Hard copy:	5
Email:	1

Gender

Female:	16
Male:	7
Blank:	1

Age range

15–24	2
25–44	7
45–64	9
65+	4
Blank:	2

Postcode

3840 (Morwell and surrounds):	12
Other Vic postcodes:	7
NSW postcode:	1
Qld postcode:	1
Incorrect postcode:	1
Blank:	2

At risk group?

Yes:	8
No:	14
Blank:	2

Main concerns

Themes and examples

- Length of study – longer than 10 years; long enough to look at effects on children into adulthood; long enough to cover cancer development
- Impacts – emotional; environmental; financial, including tourism; mental health; heart conditions; respiratory problems; general health effects, especially if not previously suffered; effect on unborn children; health insurance
- Clean up – assistance to clean / effects of cleaning
- Mining company – need to pay increased bonds; why they were allowed to continue (climate change contributor); rehabilitation of used mine areas; prevention of future fires like this
- Carbon monoxide poisoning – short and long term effects; large amounts produced from a fire in the coal mine (fire authorities should have known this)
- People to be involved – many / all people across the Latrobe Valley; sufficient people for accurate averages; Hazelwood workers, especially those who worked on the fire
- Help to be available for those effected – financial or medical help; effect on health insurance

One-off concerns

- Health warnings for the early stages of another incident
- Researchers to report back to the community – allow others to be tested as required

- Study not just for the benefit of the effected community, but also for other communities in similar situations; study to consider Anglesea/Surf Coast residents (Alcoa; levels of SO₂)
- Data collected from/by the community
- Divisions in the community; mental, emotional and social health of the community
- Free ongoing monitoring for anyone who wishes to participate
- Continued monitoring of 2.5 particles with results being published; publish results of tests on ash composition
- Heavy metal toxins – effects on brain / body with build-up; effect on mental health
- Why people were told it was safe, when so many people have become sick
- Non-sustainable / carbon producing energy sources

Highlighted text – ‘new’ themes not recorded in notes from the community consultation session

How to receive feedback

Website:	11
Printed community update:	15
Media:	10
Social media:	7
Other suggestions:	Information delivered to the homes of all Latrobe Valley residents

Community consultation attendance?

Yes:	3
No:	19
Blank:	2

Session rating (if attended)

Informative:	Disagree; Strongly disagree; Agree
Well planned:	Disagree; Strongly disagree; Agree
Opportunity to give views:	Slightly agree; Strongly disagree; Agree

Other comments

Inability to attend the community consultation session due to short notice