



Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce Final Report & Achievements Analysis

A wide-angle photograph of a coal mine landscape. The foreground shows a large, flat, light-brown area, likely a tailings storage facility or a cleared site, with some dark tracks or roads. In the middle ground, there are green fields and some industrial structures, including tall chimneys or towers. The background features rolling hills and a cloudy sky. A large, colorful graphic element, consisting of a blue, red, and yellow triangle, is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the sky and the landscape.

Working in conjunction
with Communities,
Government, Agencies
and Business



Front cover photograph of the rehabilitated northern batter of the Hazelwood mine adjacent to the Morwell township.

Acknowledgment of Country

Emergency Management Victoria acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land. EMV also acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders, past and present and is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve a shared vision of safer and more resilient communities.

Acknowledgment

The producers of this report wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank the members of the Taskforce and their teams for the contributions made to this report, and for their time reviewing the content for final report completion.

We also wish to thank those who have provided comments as quoted throughout the report and to those who took and provided the photos as illustrated.

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Foreword

Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley



The Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce was established to implement actions to help prevent, prepare for and respond to, the threat of fire in and around coal mines in Victoria.

It's done that but more broadly, what it has actually achieved is an incredible collaboration between industry, agencies,

departments and community to a level that I believe is very special.

Established as part of the broad response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, the Taskforce's achievements are a testament to its work in ensuring continual improvement and best practice in terms of prevention, preparedness, monitoring, response capability, recovery and communication practices for fire risk reduction within the mines.

This final report marks the formal closure of the Taskforce but not the end of the collaboration.

It outlines more than two years and 232 initiatives under the auspices of the Taskforce, which has resulted in community focussed outcomes and improved and strong ongoing relationships.

Significantly at the time of this report almost 95% of those initiatives are considered to be implemented.

The 2014/15 and 2015/16 summer seasons exemplified the industry changes implemented by the Taskforce member bodies and as we go into the 2016/17 summer I expect this to be no different.

The changes introduced by the Taskforce have proven successful, promoting good community and industry outcomes and as Chair of the Taskforce, it is important for me to acknowledge the achievements and commitment to working together.

This is an achievement in and of itself but the list of initiatives completed under the Taskforce is worth reading and taking the time to understand its significance in this space. It's been a pleasure to be involved with such an engaged group of people that has collectively achieved improved capability and fire management.

Craig Lapsley PSM

**Emergency Management Commissioner
Chair Coal Mines Emergency Management
Taskforce**

Executive Summary

This final report is a culmination of the activities undertaken by the Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce for its entire period of operation from 16 September 2014 to 30 September 2016. That includes the out-workings of both the Latrobe Valley and the Surf Coast components of the Taskforce, which are outlined separately in this report given the differing componentry and lifespans of the two groups.

The formation of the Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce has been facilitated by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), with the specific intention of reducing the risk of major fires occurring in or entering the mines during the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 summer seasons and into the future.

The structure of the Taskforce has been to incorporate the formation of both a Latrobe Valley and a Surf Coast Taskforce, to ensure a consistent approach was adopted from an emergency management perspective within all four operating brown coal mines across Victoria. These being: Hazelwood (Engie formerly GDF SUEZ), Loy Yang (AGL), Yallourn (Energy Australia) and Anglesea (Alcoa).

The Latrobe Valley Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce commenced on 16 September 2014, with an original completion date of 31 December 2015, as per the original Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry Report handed down in September 2014. This was an initiative of the State Government to implement the affirmations and improvement plans as recommended in the Government Response to the original Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry.

The report also notes the activity undertaken by the Surf Coast Taskforce, as this was formed in November 2014 and was finalised with the closure and subsequent covering of the coal in the Anglesea Mine by September 2015.

The Taskforce was a component of the State's Implementation Plan and was allocated certain responsibilities to be reported on through Emergency Management Victoria to the Implementation Monitor and the Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM). It does not report against other specific recommendations made by the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, which are being undertaken via another process.

The Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry was reopened in May 2015 to inquire into and report on:

- Whether the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire contributed to an increase in deaths;
- Measures to improve the health of the Latrobe Valley communities;
- Options for rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley coal mines; and
- Options to minimise the risk of fire at the Anglesea Coal Mine for the 2015/16 summer season.

The final report on the reopened Inquiry was handed down in March 2016 and this was a contributing factor to the Minister for Emergency Services extending the Taskforce by a further nine months until 30 September 2016.

It is acknowledged that a number of items captured in this report form part of historical mitigation programs.

The intent of the Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce has always been to ensure improvement work is completed in a timely fashion and carried out in a collaborative and cooperative manner with partner agencies and industry as required.

“ It has been a pleasure to work with both components of the Taskforce, being the Latrobe Valley and Surf Coast groups.

The level of commitment and dedication displayed by team members from both Taskforces across industry, agencies and local government has been a credit to each and every member. All motivated in their common goals to achieve a greater level of safety for their respective communities. ”

Peter Schmidt **AFSM** - Director
Coal Mine Emergency Management
Taskforce, Emergency Management
Victoria

“ The opportunity for all those with an interest in preventing and mitigating the impact of fires in the open cut coal mines to share their understanding of the risks and gain insights into the perspective of others has been very valuable. Site operators, regulators and emergency services all have their own imperatives which can seem to be in conflict on occasion. The discussions at the Taskforce table and information interactions during meetings and visits have been effective in building understanding of where common ground exists and where compromise is required.

A formal structure that promotes debate and provides a safe environment of sharing ideas and problems is essential to these outcomes. The environment in which all agencies and industry work is busy and is often an impediment to investing in networks and more considered discussion. The Taskforce provided this structure and by its nature built and sustained networks. ”

Geoff Conway **AFSM** - General Manager
Mine Fire and Emergency Unit, Earth
Resources Regulation Victoria

Taskforce

Terms of Reference

The following original Terms of Reference were developed for the operation of the Taskforce:

- Review the fire/emergency preparedness of the four Victorian brown coal mines.
- Oversee the implementation of the relevant Hazelwood Coal Mine Inquiry affirmations and improvement plans.
- Support improved capability and interoperability between the coal mine industry, government agencies and community.

The Terms of Reference were modified slightly for the Surf Coast Taskforce and relevant to its term of operation.

EMV proposed that given the extension of the Taskforce to 30 September 2016 and the re-opened Inquiry, an amendment to the Terms of Reference was necessary. EMV proposed an additional Term of Reference be included:

- Support and assist Taskforce members to deliver recommendations and affirmations from the Inquiry reports without assuming the obligations of its members.

This additional term was formally adopted by the Taskforce in February 2016.

In accordance with the original terms, the Taskforce's key priority to date has been the preparedness of the mines in addressing improved prevention and response capabilities, to reduce the risk of major fires occurring in or entering the mines during the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 fire seasons.

The additional important consideration was to foster a consistent approach by all mines in adopting standards that will achieve these goals while taking into consideration a broad scope of probabilities.

“ There’s no benefit in hoping for the best if you have not prepared for the worst and the Taskforce has been integral in ensuring Latrobe Valley mines, industries and agencies understand each other’s risks and capability and have plans prepared should such an event occur. ”

**Garry Wilkinson - Mining Director,
ENGIE Hazelwood**

“ The Taskforce has been valuable in terms of relationships with the other agencies and working in partnership with EPA. It helped to keep us connected with the many facets of community communication and engagement. ”

**Tim Owen - Manager Population Health
and Planning / South Division, DHHS**

Membership

The Taskforce was chaired by the Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC), Craig Lapsley and directed by Emergency Management Victoria. Membership was comprised of the following local government, government agencies and commercial organisations:

- Latrobe City Council and Surf Coast Shire
- WorkSafe Victoria
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) – (Formally DSDBI)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – (Formally DH and DHS)
- Engie – Hazelwood – (Formally GDF SUEZ)
- AGL – Loy Yang
- Energy Australia – Yallourn
- Victoria Police (VicPol) – Latrobe Valley from December 2015
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), original member at Surf Coast and from February 2016 in the Latrobe Valley Taskforce
- Alcoa – Anglesea
- Others as required

Collaborative relationships have also been established with others such as VicRoads to ensure prevention and fire mitigation activities are working in harmony to achieve desired outcomes.

“ WorkSafe’s involvement with the Taskforce enabled it to form stronger working relationships with the other regulators and key stakeholders in the Latrobe Valley coal mine community. WorkSafe improved its understanding of the various stakeholders’ needs and plans, which in turn WorkSafe used to inform its own activity plans. WorkSafe also used the Taskforce as a forum to share these plans with the key stakeholders. ”

Kevin Hayes - Group Leader Hazardous Industries & Industry Practices, WorkSafe Victoria

Taskforce Status

Latrobe Valley Taskforce:

The Latrobe Valley Taskforce commenced operation on the 16 September 2014 and concluded 30 September 2016. During this time 26 Taskforce meetings were conducted, which included visits to the mines to view first-hand the improvement and mitigation programs completed or underway.

The Taskforce operated from the CFA District 27 Headquarters at 23 and later 20 Hazelwood Road, Morwell on a part time basis for the bulk of its existence. The Taskforce Director was also able to met regularly in Melbourne with government and other agencies by way of membership of various committees and work groups.

Membership bodies remained very well represented on the Taskforce and were engaged and very committed to the process with regular meeting attendance and actions committed to and undertaken within the specified timeframes.

The ongoing emphasis of the Taskforce was continual improvement in terms of prevention, preparedness, monitoring, response capability, recovery and communications practices for fire risk reduction within the mines.

The mine operators sustained an excellent attendance record at meetings and workshops and often had multiple personnel in attendance. Furthermore, they regularly shared hosting the Taskforce meetings, which provided all members the opportunity to view the current status of the individual mines.

The Latrobe City Council has maintained strong linkages with the mines through regular meeting and planning regimes.

Government agency members including; CFA, WorkSafe, DEDJTR, EPA, DHHS were key inaugural members of the Taskforce and were key contributors in terms of support, expert advice, community engagement and communication, regulatory frameworks and work practices. Those agencies are also heavily involved in working toward related Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Recommendations such as the implemented Smoke Framework standards and protocols.

Victoria Police was invited onto the Taskforce in December 2015 and DELWP in February 2016 to further enhance relationships and engagement at a local level and to strengthen regional emergency

response coordination with the mines.

Representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) also regularly attended these Taskforce meetings as guests to provide an opportunity for information sharing on broader outcomes related to the Inquiries. In October 2015 and August 2016, all Taskforce members, industry and agencies together with other local critical industry and agencies participated in major exercises known as Latrobe 15 and Latrobe 16. These key activities are reported in more detail later in this report.

With the extension of the Taskforce tenure from completion on 31 December 2015 to 30 September 2016, a Forward Plan was completed and adopted by the Taskforce in early 2016 to set the direction and transition arrangements for the new period of operation and beyond.

“ The Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce and the creation of CFA’s fire control District 27 have run in parallel for the last two years. These two initiatives have complemented each other very strongly. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine the Latrobe Valley landscape without the Coal Mines Taskforce in it. While success can be measured in many ways; it is the qualitative achievements that the Taskforce leaves as its legacy that has helped to shape so much since the 2014 Morwell Mine Fire. The Taskforce has facilitated the coming together of those leaders from government, industry and emergency services on whom it is incumbent to have vision, courage and commitment to provide a way forward for the Latrobe Valley community. ”

**Bill Johnstone - Operations Manager
District 27, CFA**

Taskforce Status

Surf Coast Taskforce:

The Surf Coast Taskforce commenced on 14 November 2014 and was discontinued in September 2015 with some transition arrangements being implemented. This was following the closure of the Anglesea Mine by Alcoa and its successful program to cover the majority of the exposed coal to make the site safe until formal rehabilitation plans are completed and implemented.

Over that period four meetings, one full day workshop hosted by Alcoa and one teleconference of the Taskforce were conducted. In addition the Taskforce Director visited the Alcoa site on a number of occasions to discuss various matters and to view the mine. During that period Alcoa were diligently reviewing their risk management plans and combining with the Latrobe Valley mines to implement the learning from the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire as it applied to the Anglesea Mine.

It is widely acknowledged that the level of significant fire risk for the Anglesea Mine is considerably lower than for the Latrobe Valley mines. This is primarily attributed to the size of the mine, type of mining operation, coal composition, history and rehabilitation programs due to significant depth of overburden.

Following unsuccessful negotiations by Alcoa to sell the Anglesea Coal Mine and associated power station, the company announced in May 2015 that it would close the entire operation by 31 August 2015.

The re-opened Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry hearings conducted at Anglesea on 30 and 31 July 2015, focussed on options to minimise the risk of fire at the Anglesea Coal Mine for the 2015/16 summer season.

With the subsequent announcement by Alcoa that they intended closing and making safe the mine by 31 August 2015, the Inquiry concentrated on plans and activities in place to achieve safe closure of the mine. Expert evidence and advice was provided as to the achievable factors of Alcoa's methodology of works to be completed including:

- Mine floor and working batters to be covered with a minimum of one metre of composite soils/clay
- Road network marked to facilitate inspections and reduce traffic on normal cover to minimise damage to soil cover

- Regular inspection program in place to monitor for hotspots and build-up of fines (concentration of fine coal particles)
- Old exposed west face, which is rated at low risk, will be covered as part of full rehabilitation program by 2017
- Haul road to be worked to remove any build-up of coal fines
- Hoppers and conveyors at power station to be made safe in terms of coal deposits and reserve stockpile has been removed and buried
- Equipment on site to be maintained for any possible issues, includes excavators and 60k litre tanker
- Fire service water maintained and enhanced with new diesel pumping capacity.

These works were inspected by the Taskforce as part of its final meeting on 24 September 2015 and all works were completed. Alcoa was commended on its professional manner and quality of completed works.

A solid working relationship between Alcoa, CFA, DELWP, DEDJTR and WorkSafe was observed and a formal request has been made by the EMC that all future planning forms part of Municipal Emergency Management Plans for relevant upgrading and implementation.

A solid level of connectedness between Alcoa the Anglesea CFA Brigade and community was also noted.



Photos: Anglesea Mine September 2015 showing extent of coal covering from two different vantage points

“ From my perspective we appreciated the opportunity to participate in a well organised, cross functional team that had strong leadership, clear objectives, and a real focus on understanding real risk whilst identifying practical measures to deal with any risks in an appropriate manner. I think the outcomes, and alignment around these, for Anglesea demonstrated this. ”

Warren Sharp - Asset Manager Alcoa Australia

Plan

Latrobe Valley Improvement Plan

An Improvement Plan was developed by October 2014, with a very high percentage of its outputs either completed or ongoing as at 30 September 2016. The key themes of the Improvement Plan relate to preparedness and response to fire emergencies, including:

- Monitoring systems and processes
- Planning and mapping
- Hazard reduction/removal
- Improved capability- training and equipment
- Operational improvements
- Relationships, including the sharing of information between, and with, industry and agencies. The Taskforce tours of all mines is a good example of this
- Systems alignment
- Welfare

These themes were more broadly applied to an Initiatives Status and Monitoring Program and are incorporated in this report under the Initiatives Instigated section commencing on page 23 of this report.

Communications Group

A Communications Group was initially established to:

- Develop overall approach and direction
- Identify key stakeholders for engagement
- Manage development and timing of media releases
- Facilitate consistency of messaging and engagement across communities.

The Communications Group, chaired by EMV was established in October 2014 and met on an as-needs basis. Membership consisted of representatives of each of the Taskforce member bodies.

In June 2015 at a communications workshop where community representatives were invited to attend, it was agreed that a more strategic approach be adopted to build a community connectedness model for Morwell along similar lines to others being trialled in other parts of the state, where major fires had occurred.

Community Based Emergency Management

There has been ongoing work to develop this model in Morwell with a number of meetings and workshops being conducted, these being facilitated by EMV, DHHS and EPA in conjunction with Latrobe City Council and other member bodies of the Taskforce.

- This work, together with activities in other parts of Victoria, has led to the development of an overall strategic approach, to communications and community planning which will help achieve the outcomes required as part of Recommendations 11 and 12 under the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry (HCMFI) Report: The Community Based Emergency Management project is transitioning to become an integrated program to support communities and organisations in working together to build on combined strengths.
- This is an ongoing process, where people can work together and adapt the approach to develop and use inclusive decision making processes - before, during and after emergencies.
- Included will be the release of the CBEM Overview (document) to be published with further supporting information available on the EMV website.
- Support for engaged/ leading communities e.g. Harrietville, Gellibrand, Blackwood, including those most at risk; and communities recovering from recent events e.g. Morwell, Lancefield, and Wye River is to be part of the program.
- Resourcing requirements specific to fund targeted support in Morwell has been completed by EMV and approved by DPC for implementation.
- Further targeted engagement within EMV, the broader emergency management sector and local government will also aim to influence a positive community based approach toward planning, response and recovery as an ongoing continuum.
- This aligns with developing a Modern Emergency Management System for Victoria (2015) and the shared vision of building safer and more resilient communities.

Community Communication Actions

- In early summer 2014/15 and 2015/16 localised media releases, social media and advertising outlining upcoming risks of the fire season and outlining preparations undertaken by mine operators and agencies ahead of the season.
- Periodic media interviews with EMC Craig Lapsley have been ongoing.
- Letter from EMC distributed to approximately 45 community leaders, and through the Latrobe Valley business networks and media in Morwell detailing the additional and improved preparations undertaken by emergency services, government agencies and mine operators ahead of the 2014/15 summer.
- Community update video featuring the EMC outlining the additional and improved preparations carried out ahead of 2014/15 summer.
- Community Recovery Committee have been provided briefings on the status and activities of the Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce.
- The Taskforce Director presented to the Maryvale Probus Club in September 2015 on the Taskforce out-workings with approximately 100 community members from across the Latrobe Valley attending.
- EPA, DHHS and Taskforce Director conducted a briefing of Latrobe City Councillors in November 2015 regarding the Smoke Management Framework and out-workings of the Taskforce.
- Taskforce members have also been distributing information to Latrobe Valley communities about their own agency responsibilities using a range of mediums.
- Through community recovery work undertaken by Latrobe City Council, a range of community engagement activities were trialled with the Morwell community. This involved doorknocking around 3000 homes in the mine fire impacted community. Engagement activities highlighted strength in place based approaches such as:
 - Undertaking engagement activities in place.
 - Going to community in places where they already recognise there is a strong preference to the creation of one-off engagement activities.
 - Communicating through neighbourhood and community networks.
 - A strong preference for hard copy printed information distributed either via the Latrobe Valley Express or delivered to letterboxes.
 - Personal communication and engagement was important for many community members.
 - Giving community members opportunities for capacity building and the ability to participate in community based decision making is preferable to having decisions made by others.
 - The voice of the community must be an important component of agency decision making.



Photo: Community communication - Latrobe City Council door knock

Communication Considerations:

- Communication – coordination of message is critical. The community deserve to have access to reliable, consistent, well informed messaging.
- The key to strong communication is listening to the community, being receptive to messages and having the capacity to be agile and responsive.

Industry and Emergency Services Communications:

- ENGIE conducted community briefing days in October 2014, February and October 2015. These sessions were attended by politicians, councillors, community group representatives and the Taskforce participated. Briefing on the mines fire mitigation program and plans/ actions to meet Inquiry outcomes were provided together with a tour of the mine to display works in progress. Media coverage was also undertaken. The events were very well received by all attendees.
- Coal mine fire introductory video from EMC, mine operators and CFA outlining specific dangers and hazards presented by a coal mine fire. To be used in briefing emergency responders to coal mine fires, particularly those who may have limited experience in such environments.
- The Head of Security and Emergency Response for Loy Yang and Taskforce Director presented to the CFA's state-wide operations forum in May 2015, on mine emergency management strategies and the Taskforce history and out-workings.
- The Taskforce Director presented on the role, achievements and activities improving industry resilience of the Taskforce to the Australasian Fire and Emergency Authorities Council National Conference in Adelaide in September 2015.
- The Taskforce Director completed presentations on the Taskforce to the Gippsland Regional Managers Forum, (September 2015), the CFA District 27 Planning Committee, (September 2015), the Regional Emergency Management Executive Planning Committee (December 2015), State Fire Management Planning Committee (March and September 2015), the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Regional Councils for District 27 and 8 in July and August 2016 respectively.
- The Taskforce Director attended the Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group meetings to provide update briefings on the Taskforce activities periodically.
- ENGIE Community Consultations briefings

16 March 2016 – Community Consultation

- The session was well publicised through paid newspaper and radio advertisements, direct invites to over 70 individuals, staff news brief issued at both Hazelwood and Loy Yang B power station and through direct invitees who then promoted and posted information on their social media accounts.
- As a result 40 people attended, which doesn't include ENGIE staff, in what was a broad cross section of the community.
- A representative from Environment Victoria was among those present, four members of the Hazelwood Environment Review Committee, representatives from DHHS, Voices of the Valley, Morwell Traders, Mine Fire Recovery Representative, Latrobe Valley Sustainability Network, Latrobe City Council and Federation University were also represented.

22 June 2016 – Community Consultation

- Following the successful publicising of the event through paid newspaper and radio advertisements, direct invites to over 90 individuals with the same approach as was adopted on 16 March 2016.
- Over 60 community members attended where the business received positive feedback on the activities that were being undertaken.
- There was a broad cross section of the community, and many different faces from our March session, this included the Latrobe City CEO, EPA Regional Manager, CFA District 27 Operations Manager, Coal Resources and representatives from both Energy Australia Yallourn and AGL Loy Yang A. There was also a strong presence from Voices of the Valley group.
- The session was a good opportunity for senior management to meet with the community, step through the Mine Work Plan Variation, discuss not only the progressive rehabilitation

that has been completed this year along the northern batters, but the areas of the mine where rehabilitation will commence in coming months when the weather improves. The session forms part of the community engagement activities for the Mine Work Plan Variation and addresses the Risk Assessment Management Plan (RAMP) which covers off fire and land movement risks.

- An extensive photographic display was set up for attendees to view rehabilitation work in the mine. Videos of mine rehabilitation also played on loop on a display/information table.

11-13 August 2016 – Community Display at Mid Valley Shopping Centre in Morwell

- Publicity of the information stand was undertaken through radio adverts, live radio crosses, paid brochure inserted inside the Latrobe Valley Express on 4 August 2016 to be distributed to every household in Morwell, Churchill, Hazelwood and Yinnar.
- Display of information, including copies of the Mine Work Plan Variation, information sheets on rehabilitation.
- ENGIE Hazelwood employees available to speak with community members, over a total of 13.5 hours across the three days.

24-25 August 2016 – Community Consultation Sessions Mine Work Plan Variation

- A series of three, one hour sessions enabled the community to discuss the plan further and provide comments.

28 November 2016 – Planned Fire Preparedness Activities

- Whole page advert in Latrobe Valley Express.



Photo: Crowd lines up for Yallourn Mine tour

Yallourn Open Day 17 April 2016

The Energy Australia Yallourn site held its first open day in 11 years on 17 April 2016, giving the public an opportunity to tour the power station and mine, whilst also providing information on future plans including mine rehabilitation. The open day attracted 1,596 people through the doors which was above expectations.

The Latrobe Room within the Yallourn Learning Centre was used to display the progressive rehabilitation plans and a history of the Yallourn Mine presentation. Community members were invited to make suggestions and question the rehabilitation works with many comments from the public. Tours of the mine included a rehabilitation briefing and gave an opportunity to see progressive rehabilitation works completed and in progress.

Whilst much of the general feedback centered around 'having more open days', providing job and work experience opportunities for locals, 'engaging with school children' and 'where will Victoria's electricity come from post Yallourn closure', Energy Australia staff also asked for specific feedback on the rehabilitation Master Plan Lake Design.

Although the majority of the community was supportive of the industry and would rather see

the mine and power station continue past 2032 they were complementary of the current and future rehabilitation Master Plan. The lake will be more than 2,000 hectares in surface area, and there will be plenty of room for a number of floating homes and restaurants post closure. Connecting the lake through the Morwell River Diversion was also seen as a positive providing public access was allowed. Public access remains at the forefront of Yallourn Mine's Rehabilitation Master Plan.



“ As Latrobe City’s Coordinator Emergency Management I can say that this process has been engaging and the Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce Director has undertaken a huge task in his coordination and collaboration requirements.

Since the formation of the Taskforce there has been greater collaboration between the power industry and Latrobe City Council in the fire prevention environment where we have gone from a compliance based program to an inclusive team base inspection program.

This has produced industry understanding of fuel management practices to a higher level where regular works and programs are undertaken to reduce fire risks. ”

Lance King - Latrobe City Council



Exercise

- “Latrobe 15”
- “Latrobe 16”

Exercise “Latrobe 15”

This multi-agency and industry exercise was conducted on 8 and 9 October 2015 with the aim to assess the preparation for and response to a major incident in the Latrobe Valley in accordance with local plans and arrangements. The exercise was fully subscribed with over 70 personnel being present on both days of the exercise.

Exercise Scenario:

A bushfire that ignited north of Yallourn North and spread in a south, south easterly direction and impacted both the Yallourn and Hazelwood mines together with the Australian Paper Installation at Maryvale. Furthermore, the inundation of the Morwell township with smoke following a wind change and impacting the town overnight.

Exercise Objectives:

The scripted scenario was planned to:

- Assess and test the preparedness levels of industry and emergency management agencies leading into a period of extreme fire risk by providing evidence of actions implemented to address.
- Validate the integration of industry and emergency management agencies planning and preparedness. By providing proof of plans and works put in place to mitigate risks and reduce impacts.
- Measure response capability in line with identified threat levels.
- Explore the incident management arrangements in response to a major incident.
- Practise the transfer of control process.
- Explore the integration of detection, analysis and monitoring operations and information transfer into the Incident Management Team.
- Validate an integrated formulation of public information and community engagement processes in response to an incident with significant community impact.
- To recognise areas of improved capability and those requiring further attention to reduce fire risk and enhance community safety.

A key aspect of the exercise was to display and practice the integration of industry into the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS). This being a vital component of the HCMFI Recommendation 2 relating to the piloting of integrated incident management teams and adoption of AIIMS philosophy within industry. The exercise was considered part of the pilot process.

Agencies attending included; CFA, MFB, SES, DELWP, DEDJTR, VicPol, WorkSafe, AV, DHHS, EPA, EMV including representatives from the State Control Centre and Latrobe City Council and Gippsland Water.

Industry participating included the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines, Australian Paper (APM) a major hazard facility and Hancocks Plantations (HPV).

A detailed report on the Exercise dated 20 November 2015 was distributed to all key stakeholders.

“ The Taskforce has provided a valuable forum for industry and government agencies to work together with a coordinated approach to improve cohesion and clarity in relation to critical incident response. Communication with the community has been highlighted and all agencies now have a clearer understanding of the various participants that can get involved in a critical response. Improved networks have been established between the various agencies and industry as a result of the EMT initiatives. ”

**Mark Pearson – Executive Manager,
Energy Australia**

Exercise “Latrobe 16”

This second EMV/CFA coordinated multi agency and industry exercise was conducted on 25 and 26 August 2016, with similar aim and objectives as for Exercise Latrobe 15. This exercise was over-subscribed with 84 attending on day one and 104 attending on day two.

Exercise scenario:

This scenario was more complex than that of Latrobe 15, in that, it involved a magnitude 5.5 earthquake with an epicentre at Traralgon South, which in turn created a mine batter slip at the Loy Yang Mine and other minor damage across the Latrobe Valley. Together with, a possibly related fire at Pinegro a major mulch producer located just south of Morwell. Smoke from that fire inundated Morwell hence requiring the activation of data analysis and monitoring via EPA and DHHS to provide appropriate advice and warnings to communities under the smoke management protocols.

The batter slip scenario enabled DEDJTR to effectively and efficiently enact a required exercise under their regulatory and response requirements.

Day two of the exercise had a heavy emphasis on community information flow, messaging and warnings. As part of the process the EMC presented on and described the newly formulated Community Communications Roadmap, which provides an avenue to reach a new integrated, whole of government, community-focussed approach. This was then workshopped to some degree.

Attendees at the exercise included all those agencies and industry that attended Latrobe 15 and in addition; VicRoads, Pinegro and key community groups in Voices of the Valley, the Community Recovery Committee and Neighbourhood House. These community groups were able to gain a greater understanding of emergency management arrangements and the complexity major incidents create. Furthermore, have active input to the challenges in achieving successful information flow within diverse communities.

A survey was conducted of attendees and an evaluation process completed to capture relevant outcomes and matters requiring further attention into the future.

Plans are also in train for the development and delivery of future annual exercises of this type post Taskforce involvement.

“ Building strong relationships with the industry as well as continuing to improve and build on the already strong relationships across government agencies (state and local). The opportunity moving forward is to continue to build the relationship with the broader community – the Latrobe Exercises were a great start. ”

Mike Timpano - Former Regional Director, DELWP

“ I found that attending Exercise Latrobe 16 from a community perspective valuable, in that it was encouraging to observe how those in the exercise worked together and in witnessing how the approach by agencies and industry has changed over the last two years. ”

Wendy Farmer - President, Voices of the Valley



Photo: Day one at Latrobe 16 exercise.

Initiatives Instigated

It is recognised that a number of the items captured below form part of historical mitigation programs.

However, these are considered vital investments in terms of fire mitigation and control as well as providing a level of consistency of approach across mines. It is important these are a part of the recording and recognition of recent improvements and enhancements to works as out workings of the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry and the Taskforce.

The tables on these pages relate to the Latrobe Valley Coal Mine Taskforce. The work of the Surf Coast Taskforce is referenced briefly under Taskforce Status on page 11. There are 232 recognised initiatives recorded within this section and the Community Communications section on page 15 of this report. Significantly almost 95% of the initiatives are considered to be implemented at the time of this report.

The reporting is to 30 September 2016, and is recorded within mine site and agency sub headings under the following Implementation Plan themes:

1. Surveillance/Monitoring of Hotspots
2. Control Management of Hotspots
3. Integration of Mines into Incident Management Structure
4. Capability to Respond and Manage Fires in the Mine
5. Development of Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS)
6. Operational Improvement Plan
7. Training and Preparedness
8. Industry Relationship
9. Welfare / Staging Areas
10. Incident Naming
11. Hazard Removal
12. Other
13. Agency Initiatives

The action items listed under each of the headings have been given a status. The status is explained below:

Completed: Works or systems and processes that have been implemented and will not be further increased in the foreseeable future

Established: Works or systems and processes satisfactorily in place and operating

Ongoing: A continuing practice that is in place and may evolve

In Progress: Progressing well but not yet completed

Pending: Planning underway

“ EPA has found the Mine Fire Taskforce to be a really valuable forum and way to increase collaboration, accountability and outcomes being delivered between government agencies and industry. It has been a very useful group to keep accountability and ensure follow-through on Mine Fire Inquiry Recommendations, most importantly keeping community at the centre.

The collaborative mechanisms developed through the Taskforce has helped government agencies ensure a more coordinated and effective approach to engagement with the Latrobe Valley community. ”

Stephan Lansdell - Manager Gippsland, EPA

The full list of items is available from pages 24 – 48.

1. Surveillance / Monitoring of Hotspots

CFA – AERIAL FLIR MONITORING	STATUS
Flights conducted over mines and fire impacted areas from February fires during September and early October 2014.	COMPLETED
Initiated fortnightly flights prior to Christmas 2014, when the arrangement was reviewed due to recognised lower risk levels. Following this, consideration will be given to flights being risk based in accordance with preparedness arrangements, in the lead up to and after spike days.	ESTABLISHED
Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) technology available on primary response vehicles.	ESTABLISHED
Thermal Imaging activity is ongoing in the mine and CFA are responding as always done.	ONGOING
For 2015/16 CFA initiated a methodology that saw FLIR flights conducted over Latrobe Valley Mines and Energy Brix when the forecast FFDI (Forest Fire Danger Index) was > 50 (Severe). This has been incorporated into the District's Readiness Matrix to ensure compliance.	ESTABLISHED
<p>CFA RDO's (Rostered Duty Officers) will give consideration as to the need for FLIR flights when the forecast FFDI is >35 (Very High). Consultation will occur with the District Operations Team, Mine Operators and the Regional Controller as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerations may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme heat or wind events that may contribute to thermal activity within the open cut mines. Fire in the landscape in proximity to the open cut mines. Known "Areas of Interest" (aka hot spots). Time elapsed since previous FLIR flight. Advice from mine operators. At the request of the Regional Controller. On detection of an Area of Interest CFA Operations staff will initiate contact with the relevant operator to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validate FLIR data and determine appropriate treatment options. Consult in regards to strategy. Provide operational support if required (Liaison). Coordinate CFA's Response and; Assume Command and Control of CFA resources. Provide advice to State Controller via the Chain of Command. 	ESTABLISHED

HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ		STATUS
Trailer mounted FLIR cameras permanently located. One on northern batters to monitor southern batters and one on southern batters to monitor northern batters. TIC skilled personnel are available to provide follow up monitoring for areas of concern.		ESTABLISHED
Permanent CCTV cameras installed in the mine and monitored by control centre staff.		ESTABLISHED
During the mine fire season an additional dedicated 1 x7 Services Officer has been allocated to fire watching and other patrolling duties (seven days per week).		ESTABLISHED
YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA		
Permanent CCTV cameras in place to cover mine and monitored by mine control centre staff.		ESTABLISHED
Number of portable monitoring cameras also utilised with adequate resources rostered to relocate and maintain as required.		ESTABLISHED
LOY YANG – AGL		
Permanent CCTV monitoring in place at top of mine to provide coverage of mine and surrounds.		ESTABLISHED
Multiple cameras continually monitoring mine and replayed in management centre and ICC.		ESTABLISHED
Control room operates 24/7 which is responsible for monitoring and dispatching of emergency response.		ESTABLISHED

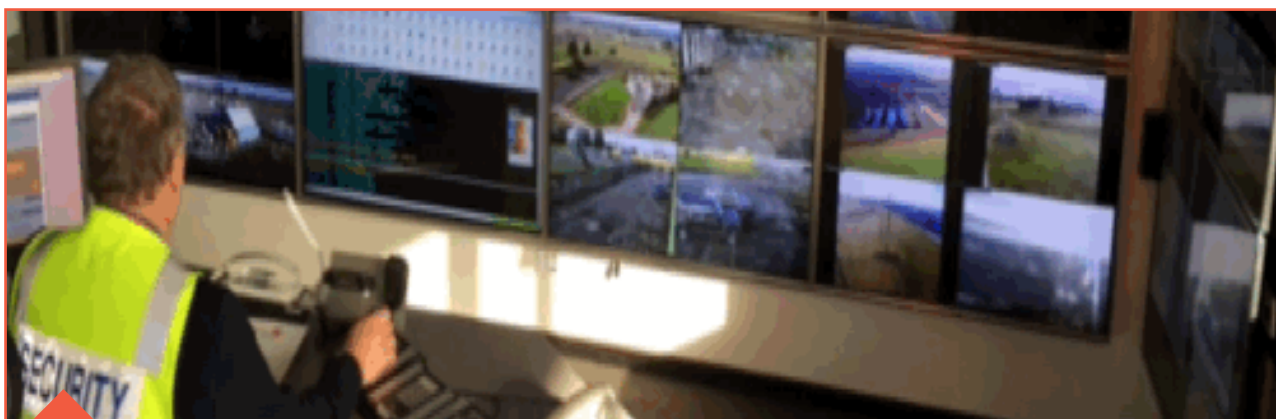


Photo: Loy Yang Operation Centre

2. Control Management of Hotspots

CFA	STATUS
FLIR data from flights conducted provided to mines management to enable any identified hot spots to be mapped for appropriate follow up action and treatment.	ONGOING
HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	
Generator installed for backup power supply to provide uninhibited command centre capacity.	COMPLETED
Maps available at entry points for responders.	COMPLETED
Formal routine established for review of known areas of interest. This includes the use of Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) monitoring of specific areas on a regular basis.	ONGOING
YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA	
Control room maintains constant mine monitoring via CCTV.	ESTABLISHED
Permanent 24/7 fire crews on shift at fire station.	ESTABLISHED
Intensive management regime in place for areas of interest.	ESTABLISHED
Regular Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) monitoring in place.	ESTABLISHED
LOY YANG – AGL	
Permanent 24/7 fire crews on shift.	ESTABLISHED
Daily monitoring of hot spots.	ESTABLISHED
Technical monitoring of hot spots.	ESTABLISHED
Civil engineering strategy and well established access points to ensure timely response to emergencies.	ESTABLISHED

3. Integration of Mines into Incident Management Structure

HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ		STATUS
Emergency Commanders and identified staff have been trained in Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) ICS.		COMPLETED
Additional training in AIIMS was arranged for early 2015 for additional personnel. Training in AIIMS for identified mine personnel has been completed and has been utilised during mine declared Severe and Extreme Fire Danger Rating days in 2015 - 2016.		COMPLETED
Designated Engie formally GDF SUEZ personnel to attend regional Incident Control Centre (ICC) during incidents that have potential to impact the mine.		ONGOING
Engie formally GDF SUEZ to engage in all relevant Incident Controller and media briefings.		ESTABLISHED
YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA		
Level 1 Incident Control Centre established for Extreme Fire Danger Rating days.		ESTABLISHED
Seven qualified Level 2 Incident Controllers.		ESTABLISHED
Sixteen AIIMS trained personnel.		ESTABLISHED
Expanding training to all AIIMS related positions within incident management structure.		COMPLETED
Introduction to AIIMS specific to mining industry.		COMPLETED
LOY YANG – AGL		
Well established and equipped ICC on site.		ESTABLISHED
Integrated training conducted with CFA regularly.		ONGOING
Staff trained in AIIMS.		ESTABLISHED
Emergency Manager chairs Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group (CGEIG).		ONGOING
Seventeen nationally accredited Level 2 Incident Controllers on site.		ESTABLISHED
Pre incident response mechanisms and plans in place to ensure timely activation of appropriate CFA appliances 4x4 for mines, pumpers for power station.		ESTABLISHED
Activation is automated.		ESTABLISHED



Photo: Extensive sprinklers systems installed at Hazelwood mine

4. Capability to Respond and Manage Fires in the Mine

CFA	STATUS
District 27 was officially launched in April 2015, for all brigades in Latrobe City to be coordinated via a single district structure. This is the only additional CFA District to be established since CFA's inception in 1944.	ESTABLISHED
The District 27 Headquarters is located at 20 Hazelwood Road, Morwell Building and major refurbishments completed to appropriately provide for the Districts operational and administrative requirements. With new District Control Centre currently being finalised.	IN PROGRESS
Aerial pumper permanently deployed to Morwell Fire Station.	ESTABLISHED
Two CAFS Units allocated within District 27.	COMPLETED
A fixed wing aircraft and helicopter with 2650ltr capacity located at Latrobe Valley over FDP. To be activated on FDI of 12+. Deployment protocols to be defined for mines.	ESTABLISHED
District 27 SOP 27.01 Open Cut Coal Mines (Brown Coal) – Management of firefighter safety has been developed, endorsed and distributed to brigades, in District 27.	ESTABLISHED
An initial review of current Brigade Response Tables has been undertaken.	COMPLETED
Traralgon ICC was the immediate and defined ICC for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons for Level 3 incidents.	ESTABLISHED
HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	
Signage in mine upgraded to better direct responders.	COMPLETED
Maps made available at entry points for responders.	COMPLETED
Additional pipe work installed on non-operational batters to provide greater wetting down and firefighting capacity.	COMPLETED
Wetting down of non-operational areas of mine on Extreme Fire Danger Rating days. Wetting down of non-operational areas is established, procedurally, and documented and actioned as per mine fire documentation.	COMPLETED
Engie formally GDF SUEZ to be present in CFA ICC during times of incidents that may threaten the mine.	ESTABLISHED

YALLOURN - ENERGY AUSTRALIA	STATUS
Two additional 300 litre fire response ute tank/pumps.	ESTABLISHED
New fire service pumping system installed 1,600L/sec dual power supply.	ESTABLISHED
Two diesel standby pumps permanently installed in system.	ESTABLISHED
Latrobe River pumps, direct supply into Fire Service System. Pipe work upgraded November 2014.	COMPLETED
Refurbished mine response trailer.	ESTABLISHED
Two crane mounted spray nozzles.	ESTABLISHED
Large volume lay flat hose 6" diameter.	ESTABLISHED
Five additional portable spray units purchased, now 20 in total.	COMPLETED
Township fire services pipe infrastructure - construction of three 450mm diameter pipe extension to water supply on lower batter levels.	COMPLETED
CO Health Monitor in First Aid Centre.	ESTABLISHED
Twenty additional portable CO monitors procured.	COMPLETED
Additional manning resources - overburden truck and shovel operations over summer.	ESTABLISHED
Maps depicting all mine water points located at gatehouse for distribution to all responding appliances.	ESTABLISHED
Completed remediation project of the dam wall structure of Witts Gully dam to ensure compliance with ANCOLD dam safety guidelines. Witts Gully provides the gravity fed water supply to Yallourn Mine.	COMPLETED
Through 2015, Energy Australia Yallourn in conjunction with AGL Loy Yang and Engie formally GDF SUEZ Hazelwood, carried out facilitated risk assessment involving GHD in an effort to provide consistency to the risk management plans around managing fire and potential community impacts. These are required to be in place under recent State legislation relating to the MRSD Act.	COMPLETED
Area of exposed coal on operating faces minimised and fully enclosed with substantial mineral earth breaks on all sides. Maryvale Field mine floor progressively covered with overburden.	COMPLETED
In conjunction with CFA, DEDJTR and other mines, Yallourn workshopped the requirements for reporting of fire incidents to Government to provide consistency and ensure appropriate level of practicality.	ONGOING
Energy Australia Yallourn developed and submitted for approval the Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP). As required by DEDJTR to assess the risk to the environment and public from work done including, consideration of fire entering or breaking out within the mine. Approved by DEDJTR on 18 March 2016.	COMPLETED
Commenced work on installing additional fire service pipe work in Maryvale Field to enhance pressure distribution across the mine.	IN PROGRESS



Photo: New back up pumping station Yallourn mine.

LOY YANG - AGL	STATUS
Additional fire fighting equipment placed online.	ESTABLISHED
External contractors engaged for additional resource capacity.	ESTABLISHED
Quick attack plans in place to enhance fast knock down capability.	ESTABLISHED
Fire response plans structured with defined trigger points which are exercised.	ESTABLISHED
Crew step ups activated in accordance with defined trigger points.	ESTABLISHED
Completed exercises such as Feeder Conveyor Fire /Hazmat Exercise / Coal Stockpile fire exercise.	COMPLETED
AGL mine risk assessment completed on gas pipeline fire / explosion. Comments: the natural gas pipeline includes the high-pressure transmission pipeline to Loy Yang B from the east and the low-pressure distribution pipeline to AGL Loy Yang from the west.	COMPLETED
AGL mine risk assessment completed for mining operations which could cause consequence Level 1 / 2, 3 and 4/5 impact to the environment (ground movement / land degradation).	COMPLETED
As a condition of Mining Licence 5189 AGL Loy Yang is required to undertake a comprehensive Risk Assessment and develop a Risk Assessment Management Plan (RAMP). This was submitted to DEDJTR 31 October 2015. AGL has received the review of this document and as a result prepared a revised RA and RAMP. The two documents were provided to DEDJTR on 16 February 2016.	COMPLETED
Rehabilitation research initiatives sponsored by AGL Loy Yang have been progressing well, with Undergraduate, Masters and PhD students actively being sought by both Federation and Monash Universities.	ONGOING
Substantial resources have been devoted to facilitating regular site visits from DEDJTR and WorkSafe on the topic of fire preparedness. WorkSafe undertook another preparedness visit in February 2016 in addition to the verification audit completed end of February 2016.	ONGOING



5. Development of Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS)

CFA	STATUS
CFA has taken delivery of two compressed air retrofitted tankers both of which have been allocated to District 27 and are located at Traralgon South and Churchill Fire Brigades.	COMPLETED
Training has been completed to facilitate this increased capability within the district.	COMPLETED
In addition to the current CAFS Capability CFA has received some funding for the development of "2xHigh Volume" CAFS Units. The scope and subsequent development of this capability is in progress with anticipated delivery 17/18 FY subject to project timelines and resources.	IN PROGRESS
LOY YANG - AGL	
Two new fully integrated CAFS Units have been purchased from Tasmania as two separate projects and are now fully operational.	COMPLETED
Familiarisation awareness and techniques conducted for response crews.	COMPLETED
YALLOURN - ENERGY AUSTRALIA	
Assisted CFA with trials of the new CAFS Units to determine the suitability for use on slope mining operations.	COMPLETED

6. Operational Improvement Plan

CFA	STATUS
Industry familiarisation sessions, including tours of the open cut mines, are ongoing for all brigades and groups within District 27 who are first responders or those who are responded when fires and incidents are escalated.	ONGOING
Mine familiarisation sessions for local responders are ongoing and are being conducted on an “as needs” basis.	ONGOING
Reviewed the regional plans for Latrobe Valley Mine events and a set of guidelines will be developed to support the management of the ongoing response requirements, in relation to Class 1 emergencies only.	IN PROGRESS
As a further component of D 27 SOP 27.01, CFA has developed with industry support the “strategies for driving in open cut mines”.	ESTABLISHED
CFA has supported the development of Emergency Management Plans at various mines.	ONGOING
CFA in conjunction with Loy Yang are piloting an initiative to improve response and communications through the use of Alarm Signalling Equipment.	IN PROGRESS
CFA has developed a “Rehab Unit” at Yallourn North to better look after fire-fighter welfare and recovery during prolonged events or in extreme weather (hot and cold) by employing some simple “first aid” solutions. i.e. when you are hot, you can be cooled. When cold and wet, keep warm and dry.	ESTABLISHED
The health monitoring aspect goes to matters such as CO monitoring, hydration and the like. Essentially it aids CFA to provide an increased level of support and awareness in regards to the physiological and physical well-being of personnel.	ESTABLISHED
A new document titled “Latrobe Valley Critical Infrastructure, Major Emergency Guideline” being a concept of operations including industry integration for Incident Controllers has been developed and endorsed for implementation by the Taskforce in February 2016.	COMPLETED
Civil engineering strategy and well established access points to ensure timely response to emergencies.	ESTABLISHED
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL	
Property inspections completed, 1669 Fire Prevention Notices issued 2014/15 season.	COMPLETED
For the 2015/16, 1500 pre fire season letters sent to the majority of property owners who received notices last season.	COMPLETED
1556 Fire Prevention Notices sent for the 2015/16 season.	COMPLETED
Latrobe City Council Municipal Fire Prevention Officer is now on CGEIG.	ESTABLISHED
Mining industry site inspections undertaken with Engie formally GDF SUEZ Loy Yang, this being newly introduced into the program.	COMPLETED
Municipal Emergency Management Planning audit process successfully completed.	COMPLETED

<p>New industry initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSO and NACAP presented to Latrobe City's March 2016 MEMPC on the emergency management arrangements for the oil pipeline replacement project. • ENGIE formerly GDF SUEZ Loy Yang presented to the Latrobe City's March 2016 MEMPC also on the power station turbine replacement outage planned for 2016. 	COMPLETED
Monthly meetings with Energy Australia.	ONGOING
Major industry inspections completed annually with mines, APM, HPV & Energy Brix.	ONGOING
Mapping being produced to identify risk areas VFRR process in use.	IN PROGRESS
Meeting conducted with AGL Loy Yang and feedback on their Emergency Management Plan completed.	COMPLETED
Review of ENGIE formerly GDF SUEZ Hazelwood Emergency Management Plan completed.	COMPLETED
Municipal Fire Management Plan currently being rewritten to include recognised changes in the mines fire emergency management arena.	IN PROGRESS
HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	
Update of Emergency Response Plan and Mine Fire Instructions finalised to include additional personnel for the fire protection duties on Extreme Fire Danger Rating days.	COMPLETED
Reviewed communications protocol to ensure that during the response to a fire which is capable of impacting the community, it is able to communicate messages to the community via any protocol adopted following a review by all agencies.	COMPLETED
Outcomes of VWA verification process being considered by external consultant for implementation to improve capability as appropriate.	COMPLETED
YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA	
Enhanced operational capability incorporated into overall capacity to respond.	ESTABLISHED
Monthly bushfire mitigation program meetings conducted with CFA and Latrobe City Council.	ONGOING
LOY YANG – AGL	
Emergency Response Plan updated annually.	ESTABLISHED
Joint training ongoing (CFA and other mines).	ONGOING
Joint inspections and familiarisation tours completed regularly.	ONGOING
Standardisation of equipment.	ONGOING
Competed in Mineral Councils of Australia Victoria Mine Rescue held in Bendigo October 2016. The competition gives rescue teams the opportunity to practice their skills in a competitive environment under real life emergency scenario conditions including fire response.	COMPLETED

7. Training and Preparedness

CFA	STATUS
EMV training video produced with CFA input to provide experienced direction on approach to mine fire fighting.	COMPLETED
Safety aspects to align with CO protocols and SOPs.	COMPLETED
Familiarisation training for brigades in District 27 that are likely to respond to the mines.	ONGOING
HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	
Phoenix RapidFire training conducted for mine staff to best understand predictive fire spread modelling to enable enhanced mine emergency management planning in times of fire threat from outside the mine.	COMPLETED
AIIMS training and integration into ICCs.	COMPLETED
Training by ENGIE formally GDF SUEZ for emergency responders to the mine.	ONGOING
<p>Five mock exercises were held within the mine in 2015 involving internal and external combatting agencies including CFA and Ambulance Victoria.</p> <p>These exercises included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two desktop exercises utilising the Emergency Commanders, ESLO's and CFA Power loss to the ECC Evacuation Fire on a Bucket Wheel Excavator (BWE) 	COMPLETED
Also conducted during 2015 was a familiarisation tour within the mine for the CFA Traralgon Group of volunteers, similar to the event conducted in 2014 with the CFA Morwell Group.	COMPLETED
<p>Exercises conducted in 2016.</p> <p>Mine related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFA site familiarisation 16 February 2016 Exercise Honeyeater 12 May 2016 Exercise Barra 20 September 2016 – pondage collapse, Batter collapse & mine evacuation <p>Station related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFA site familiarisation 14 June 2016 CFA Juniors 3 October 2016 	COMPLETED

YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA		STATUS
Extensive training program conducted for all relevant staff.		COMPLETED
Training in Pheonix Rapidfire modelling being completed.		ONGOING
LOY YANG – AGL		
Regular integrated training sessions with CFA.		ONGOING
Seventeen level 2 Incident Controllers and nine ESLO's trained.		ESTABLISHED
Exercising conducted annually to conform with Part 6 Terrorism, Community Protection Act 2003 and approved by Minister.		ESTABLISHED
<p>Exercise Mine Fire 2016 will be a field exercise (full deployment) large scale, complex activity conducted in real time under simulated conditions with deployment of personnel and other response appliances and resources. Designed to achieve maximum realism and test organisational performance, interagency cooperation, communications links, personnel and equipment.</p> <p>The exercise will require the full response including, but not limited to: Falck Emergency Services, Loy Yang Mine Operations, CFA and other site contractors with roles under the Loy Yang Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>The exercise aim is to test AGL's procedures and capability to manage a large complex mine fire. Ensuring there is local capability to protect critical infrastructure in the event of a large fire, whilst ensuring operation of the mine is maintained. Effective and efficient methods.</p>		IN PROGRESS
VICTORIA POLICE		
EMLO training initiatives have been trialled in neighbouring areas whereby community members have been invited to participate in EMLO sessions with positive feedback being received. Community participants were members of their respective Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees with members expressing interest in undertaking the training. It is envisaged that similar sessions will be facilitated in the Gippsland area with preliminary discussions already commenced via the Gippsland Regional Risk Management Working Group.		IN PROGRESS

8. Industry Relationship

ALL	STATUS
Responsibility of all Taskforce member agencies and industry facilitated through Taskforce meetings, workshops and field visits.	COMPLETED
Attendance and engagement records of Taskforce members an indication of relationship strengths.	ESTABLISHED
CGEIG membership and involvement.	ESTABLISHED
CFA, DEDJTR and mines working cooperatively with VWA to complete their mine verification process.	ONGOING
Taskforce representative on State Smoke Working Group and CFA District 27 Projects Steering Committee.	COMPLETED
Briefings on Taskforce overview provided to State Emergency Management Team, Latrobe City Executive and Councillors, State Fire Management Planning Committee, Latrobe City Community Recovery Committee, State Government Mine Inquiry Reference Group, CFA District 27 Project Steering Committee, Implementation Monitor, Gippsland Regional Management Forum, Regional Emergency Management Executive Planning Committee, Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group, CFA District 27 Planning Committee and community groups.	COMPLETED
Regular meeting of industry and sub groups.	ONGOING
CFA conduct ongoing relationship building activities with all mines and power stations.	ONGOING
CFA has a dedicated Operations Officer appointed for a period not less than 12 months specifically to address matters related to critical industry.	COMPLETED
The establishment of a dedicated Fire & Emergency Management Unit within DEDJTR has allowed a specific audit of the fire related practices and procedures of the mine. This fresh review using new eyes will provide ongoing confidence in the fire detection and suppression processes used on sites. The first audit generated some useful actions for improvement.	ONGOING

Research Plan – Recommendation 18

To develop an integrated research plan by December 2016 Energy Australia Yallourn will meet with the other Latrobe Valley mine operators to identify common research areas and priorities for the next 10 years.

The first meeting was held 1 July 2016 where the Integrated Mine Research Group (IMRG) was formed.

IMRG meetings will be held on a fortnightly schedule. To date four meetings have been held 1 July, 20 July, 3 August and 17 August 2016. At the 17 August 2016 meeting the Acting Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study, Water Resource Assessments of DELWP attended. The intent of that meeting was for the three mines to share their rehabilitation plans and water needs and for DELWP to provide some initial feedback.

Each fortnight a different stakeholder will be invited to attend the meeting. Identified stakeholders include:

- Integrated Mine Research Group
- DEDJTR – Coal Resources Victoria
- Federation University Geotechnical and Hydro Geological Engineering Research Group
- DEDJTR – Earth Resources Regulation
- DELWP
- Technical Review Board
- Environment Review Committee.
- The IMRG meetings have identified an action for community consultation to be undertaken.

The three mines also met the governments “Regulation Rehabilitation Planning Working Group” members on Friday 29 July 2016 and a plan has been developed for future meetings to be hosted by each of the mines as follows:

- 26 August 2016 – Yallourn, Rehab Planning Working Group
- 23 September 2016 – Loy Yang
- 21 October 2016 – Hazelwood

A facilitated workshop with the Technical Review Board (TRB) and mine operators will be held in October 2016. A planning meeting was held 31 August 2016 for the TRB and mine operators to develop a briefing note for the facilitator.

Yallourn Mine is actively engaged with Federation University in progressing the government sponsored “Batter Stability Project”.

Federation University is another forum where the mines actively engage together with the university on research topics associated with brown coal mining and its impacts.

ONGOING

CFA Industry Forum established to provide ongoing meeting structure for strategy development and planning to facilitate ongoing networking and relationship building. Together with, continuous improvement processes for fire prevention, preparedness and response in the mines and other critical industry in the Latrobe Valley. This will ensure the ongoing legacy of the Coal Mines Taskforce is maintained.

ONGOING

9. Welfare / Staging Areas

	STATUS
Establishment of “dirty” welfare area within established Staging Areas will be incorporated at future incidents.	IN PROGRESS
This will ensure operational responders coming off the fireground for a break have ready access to welfare and refreshment facilities.	

10. Incident Naming

	STATUS
The Chief Officer is to consider a new incident type messaging convention and incident descriptor to acknowledge any event which has a “hazmat” overlay as described by the then Fire Services Commissioner in his submission to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.	IN PROGRESS
Suggestion would be either “fire with hazardous materials or fire producing hazardous or toxic smoke.” This will ensure operational responders coming off the fireground for a break have ready access to welfare and refreshment facilities.	
That the incident be regularly checked during large scale incidents to ensure the type is correct, and corrected where incorrect for internal and external users of that information.	IN PROGRESS

11. Hazard Removal - Local Initiatives Undertaken

HAZELWOOD - ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	STATUS
Undertake the rehabilitation set out Exhibit 88 (Statement of James Faithfull, Annexe 5). Clay capping to be completed by 31 December 2014. Rehabilitation of the nominated nine hectare area on the northern batters.	COMPLETED
Removal of vegetation on the worked out northern batters of the mine to reduce fire risk commencing in the areas closest to Morwell.	COMPLETED
In total 88 hectares of rehabilitation works completed for 2015/2016 as at 30 June 2016, live to date 605 hectares completed.	COMPLETED
2015/2016 vegetation management continued with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rounds of grass slashing completed before 31 December 2015 Aerial poisoning of vegetation via helicopter trialled in October 2015 Vegetation removal on north-western boundaries via mobile plant completed by 31 December 2015. 	COMPLETED

YALLOURN - ENERGY AUSTRALIA		STATUS
Township Field - Mineral earth breaks.		COMPLETED
East Field extension along Latrobe Road - Dozing overburden over worked out coal slopes commenced mid November 2014.		COMPLETED
Slashing program within mine commenced 10 November 2014.		COMPLETED
Annual slashing program within the mine to commence November 2016.		IN PROGRESS
Slashing around mine commencing in November 2014, areas as guided by CFA curing maps.		ONGOING
Annual slashing program around the mine to commence November 2016 areas as guided by CFA curing maps.		ONGOING
Annual pre-season grading program (November/December) 2016 for maintenance of mine perimeter roads, worked out areas of Township Field and Witts Gully bush area.		IN PROGRESS
Detailed fuel reduction/management map completed for mine surrounds to provide history and ongoing monitoring/management.		COMPLETED
Commitments to increase progressive rehabilitation in its Implementation Plan for its RAMP. 2016 rehabilitate an area of mine greater than or equal to the area disturbed during the year. Disturbance forecast to be approx 25 hectares, on target to complete 30 hectares.		IN PROGRESS
Maryvale Field mine floor - plan requirement to cover six hectares of exposed coal - approx eight hectares complete as at May 2016 - works continuing.		IN PROGRESS
East field extension of mine batters - plan requirement to cover five hectares of exposed coal - approx 11 hectares complete.		IN PROGRESS
East field mine floor - plan requirement to cover 4.5m cubic metres of exposed coal with overburden material- 2.7m cubic metres covering approx 20 hectares to July 2016.		IN PROGRESS
LOY YANG - AGL		
Fire Prevention Management Plan completed for management of land surrounding the mine for management of vegetation types and fuel reduction.		COMPLETED
Slashing ongoing.		ONGOING
Grazing program in place.		ESTABLISHED
Mineral earth works ongoing.		ONGOING
AGL's comprehensive research program is a collaborative activity that started mid 2015. The five year program is a joint project, between AGL Loy Yang, Federation and Monash Universities. It has been designed to assist in further determining the final rehabilitation designs (inter-slope angle, clay and topsoil coverage, infrastructure layout and drainage) for mine batters and associated maintenance requirements to achieve the key objectives for long term mine rehabilitation.		IN PROGRESS

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL		STATUS
Roadside slashing program commenced 17 November 2014 with two crews.		ONGOING
No permits to burn approved after Christmas.		ONGOING
Latrobe City contractors to clear approximately 200 properties.		IN PROGRESS



Photo: Rehabilitation works northern batter – Hazelwood Mine, adjacent Morwell township.



Photo: Coal covering / rehabilitations works Yallourn Mine.



Before and after photos: Loy Yang rehabilitation trial project conducted by AGL in partnership with Federation and Monash Universities.

12. Other

HAZELWOOD – ENGIE FORMERLY GDF SUEZ	STATUS
From the start of October 2015 to 31 December 2016, there have been nine days of specific mine preparedness in response to either Severe or Extreme Fire Danger Rating days.	ONGOING
YALLOURN – ENERGY AUSTRALIA	
<p>Yallourn reported 30 fires for the period January – October 2016.</p> <p>The main causes were hot conveyor idlers or fines within the engine bay/exhaust of D11 dozers. All of these were small incidents which did not result in asset damage and were extinguished by operations personnel without further assistance.</p>	ONGOING

13. Agency Initiatives

EPA	STATUS
<p>Citizen Science</p> <p>EPA Victoria's Citizen Science Program in the Latrobe Valley engages and empowers the community to produce valuable data about our environment.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>EPA's Citizen Science Program in the Latrobe Valley has involved smoke, air and water quality monitoring.</p> <p>Smoke Spotters was a pilot project run during the 2015/16 summer period. This involved training citizen scientists to conduct smoke monitoring by measuring and photographing visual air quality.</p> <p>In the air quality monitoring space, small sensors have been trialled to understand accuracy and viability for use by citizen scientists. Small, low-cost sensors suitable for citizen scientists were proposed as part of the Community Co-Designed Latrobe Valley Air Monitoring Network to be rolled out in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>Caring for Waterhole Creek is a water quality monitoring project in collaboration with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Latrobe City Council. The project has been co-designed with community members and involves trained citizen scientists collecting data related to the health of Waterholes Creek, Morwell.</p>

Air Monitoring Network

Prior to the Hazelwood Mine Fire, EPA had one air monitoring station operating in the Latrobe Valley, at Traralgon. This station monitored general conditions and long term trends of a variety of parameters (carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and airborne particles [PM2.5 and PM10] and visibility reduction. From these measurements, EPA calculates an Air Quality Index as a summary of the current air quality.

ONGOING

In response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire, four temporary air monitoring stations were established at Morwell South, Morwell East, Moe and Churchill, and an additional parameter was added to Traralgon Air Monitoring Station.

(PM2.5). All stations monitor parameters from which EPA can calculate an Air Quality Index and summary of the current air quality.

- Moe and Churchill measure PM2.5.
- Morwell South measures carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, PM2.5 and visibility reduction.
- Morwell East measures carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, PM2.5. and visibility reduction.

EPA is now implementing further improvements to the Latrobe Valley Air Quality Monitoring Network as proposed by a community Co-Design Panel. The Panel met over three sessions in September to October 2016, and proposed a single model widely supported by the group. EPA will now put the new model in place through 2017 and 2018.



Photo: EPA Air Monitoring equipment.

<p>Rapid Response Air Monitoring</p> <p>As part of 'Recommendation 5' from the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, the State (with EPA Victoria as the lead) must equip itself to undertake rapid air quality monitoring in any location in Victoria. The monitoring should be able to collect all data on PM2.5, carbon monoxide and ozone, and that data is used to inform decision-making within 24 hours of the incident occurring.</p> <p>Affirmation 17 from the Inquiry states: The State clarify future expectations of incident air monitoring and scenarios, and determine the appropriate inventory of equipment.</p> <p>Deployment to an incident will be determined based on an incident escalation model developed for the state, and to procedures that ensure a "whole of government" response.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Recommendation 5 – Rapid Response Air Monitoring is underway, but has already delivered a significant increase in the incident air monitoring capability of the state.</p> <p>Rapid response equipment has been purchased and was deployed to three fires across the State during the 2015/16 fire season. Data is shared with other emergency responders and DHHS. The incident escalation model has been developed in conjunction with EMV, DHHS and fire agencies. Pre-arranged triggers are clearly defined for the Incident Controller, to identify when EPA is required to deploy equipment.</p> <p>The new EPA AirWatch interactive web map was launched in January 2016. This allows EPA to display readings from the rapid response monitoring equipment (known as EPA AirWatch Express) as soon as it is deployed to an incident.</p>
<p>Air Forecasting</p> <p>To provide data and information to the relevant government agencies when required in emergencies.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>As a long standing part of the emergency management structure, EPA provides detailed smoke forecasts to Incident Controllers of fires. This is in addition to the daily general air quality forecasts which are reported on EPA's website. The service for Incident Controllers was commenced early in the 2015/16 summer season due to the early start of hot weather and fires.</p>
<p>Environmental Monitoring</p> <p>To monitor air quality within the impacted area.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>EPA has published a number of reports on environmental monitoring 12 months after the Hazelwood Mine Fire. The monitoring covered air, water and soil for the period July 2015 – June 2016.</p> <p>These reports are available at:</p> <p>http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/hazelwood-recovery-effort</p>

Community Engagement

To engage with the affected community in the Latrobe Valley in relation to the environmental impacts.

COMPLETE

EPA has engaged significantly with the affected community in relation to environmental impacts.

EPA scientists met with the community at 'round table' events in June 2015 and December 2015 to provide information and discuss community concerns related to air quality and environmental monitoring.

Questions raised were either answered at the events or responses were provided back to the community subsequently, or at the next event. In 2015, EPA staff held meetings and communicated with the community about Citizen Science programs, set up the water monitoring program, and introduced the SmokeSpotter program.

EPA also engaged affected community through the Latrobe Valley Air Monitoring Network Co-Design Panel from September to October 2016.

EPA met with key community groups and individuals as part of the planning for the Co-Design process. An information session on air monitoring was also held prior to the establishment of the Co-Design Panel. The session's purpose was to engage and inform the broader community about air monitoring and to recruit people to nominate for the panel.

The Co-Design Panel was made up of one third community nominees, one third recruited through an independent randomised process and one third individuals and representatives of community groups who had expressed an interest in air monitoring in the past.

DEDJTR

The Minister for Energy and Resources varied the conditions of the three Latrobe Valley coal mining licences requiring the licensees to undertake a risk assessment and develop a risk management plan to address risks to the environment and public safety arising from the work done, and proposed to be done, including fire prevention, mitigation and suppression. The Risk Assessment and Management Plans (RAMPs) have to be to the satisfaction of the Secretary and submitted as follows:

- GDF Suez (Hazelwood) - 30 June 2015
- Energy Australia (Yallourn) - 31 August 2015
- AGL (Loy Yang) - 31 October 2015.

STATUS

ONGOING

GDF SUEZ (Hazelwood)

Its revised RAMP was submitted on 11 November 2015 and was reassessed.

Energy Australia (Yallourn)

Its revised RAMP was submitted on 28 December 2015 and was reassessed.

AGL (Loy Yang)

Its revised RAMP was submitted by 16 February 2016

<p>In June 2015, DEDJTR acquired funding for a new Mine Fire Safety Unit, to be based primarily in the Latrobe Valley. In September 2015, the positions were advertised and interviews were held in November and December 2015. Positions in the Mine Fire Safety Unit were basically filled in late February 2016.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The Mine Fire Safety Unit is now well established and has completed the first two rounds of audits. These have looked specifically at the sources of ignition that exist both within and external to the mine and the actions taken to eliminate or mitigate impacts of those ignitions.</p> <p>An ongoing program of inspection and auditing is under development for 2017.</p>
<p>Discussing Emergency Management Plan with AGL Loy Yang.</p>	<p>IN PROCESS OF PROVIDING FEEDBACK</p>
<p>Attends Energy Australia's Wildfire Risk Mitigation monthly meetings.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>Held Fire Prevention Inspection meetings with industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Australia - 7 December 2015 • Energy Brix - 10 December 2015 • Engie formally GDF SUEZ Loy Yang B - 1 December 2015 • HVP Plantations - 11 December 2015 • AGL Loy Yang - 9 December 2015 	<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>VICTORIA POLICE</p>	<p>STATUS</p>
<p>Local government have commenced the use of community representatives when undertaking the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) process to obtain a greater appreciation of risk indicators within their local area. The REMI has scheduled meetings with all of the Local Government Managers within Gippsland to further explore and expand the integration of community participation in all aspects of emergency management, enhancing community awareness and creating resilience amongst the broader population.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>WORKSAFE</p>	<p>STATUS</p>
<p>Undertake twice yearly workshops on the MoU between DEDJTR and WorkSafe.</p> <p>WorkSafe and DEDJTR "better connected."</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU established 2015; three workshops have been conducted - June 2015, February 2016, and planned for October 2016. • These workshops are planned to transition to business-as-usual by July 2017. • Six joint verifications/audits have been conducted at Loy Yang, Hazelwood and Yallourn - between November 2015 - October 2016 • Joint visits conducted during the 2015/16 fire season at Alcoa. • Mine fire oversight joint visits planned for approaching 2016/17 fire season.

Engage technical specialists to assist in the assessment of coal mine fire risk.	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager of Systems Safety role, supporting the Earth Resources Program - commenced in July 2015. • Technical specialists engaged to provide expertise in the area of coal mine fires. <p>In June 2016, WorkSafe engaged independent consultants to undertake follow-up coaching on fire management. Two workshops were held to provide an insight for ERP team members on how to conduct field inspections of fire services and how to review a site safety and health system.</p> <p>In addition, WorkSafe has now provided training programs to its staff including Practical Firefighter Training undertaken in July 2016 (in conjunction with DEDJTR).</p>
Taking a broader interpretation in the application of legislative powers; and adopting an active approach to the supervision of mine fire risk management.	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Brown Coal Mines Benchmarking visit - undertaken by members of ERP and Manager of Systems Safety. • Key learnings being shared amongst the ERP team and other stakeholders including DEDJTR. • Key learnings to be incorporated into the mine fire oversight visits during the 2016/17 fire season.
Smoke protocol awareness presentations have been delivered by CFA.	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA presented their smoke protocol awareness presentation to ERP in February 2016.
DELWP	STATUS
Risk management, mapping, overlays, fuel breaks	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>DELWP have done specific modelling for coal mines which was included in original Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and indicated the risk reduction to mines with this strategy.</p> <p>In addition DELWP have worked closely with CFA on modelling and provided briefings to Loy Yang on risk modelling which has assisted to build their internal risk framework.</p>

Safer Together Strategy	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>DELWP along with Latrobe City Council worked on a joint National Resilience Grant to undertake local emergency based planning in Latrobe satellite townships.</p> <p>DELWP have worked with Gippsland Water on expanded modelling around Moondarra and Blue Rock reservoirs.</p> <p>Collectively agencies have focused on increasing community awareness of bushfire risk via the Living with Bushfire Community Conferences in 2014 and 2015, with over 200 attendees at each forum in the Latrobe Valley, DELWP provided a shire specific risk profile report to Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Bass Coast Councils who have used these reports to inform their Municipal Fire Management Plans and for on ground works planning.</p> <p>Additionally DELWP have presented to all Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees and discussed risk analysis and how this report is to be used, as well as actively participating in the regional forum.</p>
CFA	STATUS
JSOP27.01	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The D27 SOP27.01 can be applicable to all emergency situations across the state and is primarily targeted at firefighter health and response trigger/notifications, a lot of the content has been addressed in various state documents that have been referenced at the beginning of SOP 27.01.</p> <p>A review of the continued relevance of SOP 27.01 should be conducted, with a view of applying the same process for similar fires across the state and potentially creating a new JSOP.</p>
District 27 Formation	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Refurbishment of former Credit Union building at 20 Hazelwood Road Morwell to accommodate District 27 and regional personnel. Establishment and testing of a District Command Centre at the District 27 Headquarters Morwell.</p> <p>The formation of two fire brigade groups to support CFA and the community.</p> <p>Creation of the Critical Infrastructure Major Hazards Operations Officer in District 27.</p>

Establishment of Latrobe Industry Forum	COMPLETED Combining with CGEIG Standardisation Committee.
Firefighting Equipment for Major Industrial Fires	COMPLETED Establishing and maintaining a cache of firefighting equipment for major industrial fires, currently located in a shipping container at Hazelwood.
Driver Training	ONGOING Upgrading and increasing 4x4 capability for District Operations staff.
Aerial Pumper	COMPLETED Allocation and commissioning of an Aerial Pumper at Morwell Fire Station. Refurbishment of current Morwell Fire Station to accommodate additional career staff to support the Aerial Pumper. Continuing recruitment process for the additional staff.
Strategic Plan	ONGOING Development of a Strategic Plan for major emergencies in the Latrobe Valley.
Radio Patching System	COMPLETED Finalisation and commissioning of a Radio Patching System at AGL Loy Yang to connect AGL's radio communications system with CFA's to provide seamless radio communications during emergencies. The system also includes the ability to respond to CFA emergencies by pressing a single button in the AGL gatehouse.
Coal Mine Firefighter Training Package	ONGOING In conjunction with industry and MFB, develop a Coal Mine Firefighter Training Package, currently undergoing review.
DHHS	STATUS
<p>DHHS in conjunction with the Taskforce completed the following by way of distributing 'smoke and your health' communications materials for 2015/16 summer season (January 2016). The 'smoke and your health' communication materials were published on the Better Health Channel and on the Health Translations site, in addition to the social media publishing. DHHS distributed the materials to the community during early 2016 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications workshops with local agencies including Latrobe City Council, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Latrobe Community Health Service, Gippsland Primary Health Network, Gippsland Multicultural Services, Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation, the CFA South East Region and EPA. The local agencies assisted DHHS in promoting the materials through their social media channels, community newsletter, email distribution lists, providing hard copies and displaying the posters on public notice boards and making their own internal workforce aware of the communication materials. Provision of poster, emails and social media content to early years settings and primary secondary schools, community groups and in medical settings such as GP clinics, pharmacies and health centres. Face-to-face presentations of 'smoke and your health' information at local community forums for the CFA, local Environmental Health Officers and the Gippsland Multicultural Service. 	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Based on the extensive distribution of the 'smoke and your health' communications materials, this deliverable is complete</p>

“ Having a combined Taskforce enabled a measurable workplan to be developed that was consistent across all industry and agencies and paved a definite way forward to better support emergency management and the community.

A further initiative of the process has been the heightened interest shown by other industry groups and broader agency membership in adopting similar models in other parts of the state for enhanced integration in risk management, emergency planning, response, and community engagement.

A catalyst to the ongoing integration of industry into emergency management is the work carried out by the Taskforce in partnership with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council, (AFAC).

AFAC, as the owners of AIIMS, had the doctrine revised to formally incorporate industry into the incident management team structure. This will provide for greater collaboration, planning and a more effective and efficient integrated emergency management structure, to be instigated during major incidents within industry. Furthermore, it provides the platform for unified community warnings and information flow and will facilitate improved consequence management practices.

To support the revised AIIMS doctrine to integrate industry, it is also recognised that the availability of accredited AIIMS training must be expanded to provide better accessibility by industry, and this is being undertaken by broadened training institutions partnerships being undertaken by AFAC. ”

Peter Lockwood - Operations Officer Critical Infrastructure and Major Hazards,
District 27, CFA

Achievements

Further Achievements Acknowledged

A key point of note in terms of risk reduction in the mines, during the 2014/15 and 2015/16 fire seasons and to date, is that a number of Severe or Extreme Fire Danger Rating days have been endured over the period and during such times the mines have experienced either active hot spots or fires starting on those days. Importantly none of these have escalated beyond the control and treatment of the mines. This is considered a solid test of the mines improved prevention and suppression capabilities in terms of risk mitigation and responder and community safety.

The many initiatives recorded that indicate shared responsibility and implementation together with major investment by the mines reinforces the Taskforce memberships' commitment and application to improved risk reduction also. This final Taskforce report includes sections provided by EPA, DEDJTR, Victoria Police, WorkSafe, DELWP and DHHS with additional content from CFA. These are important inclusions which stipulate enhanced practices that directly relate to improved community information and connectedness. Together with enhanced regulatory activities that directly attribute to improved industry and community safety in the Latrobe Valley.

When it was announced, the Taskforce would be formally completing its tenure in the Latrobe Valley on 30 September 2016, a Forward Plan was completed and adopted for action by the Taskforce early in 2016.

The plan included agreed priorities for the Latrobe Valley that will contribute to continuous improvement in emergency management in the following areas:

- Communications
- Emergency Response Planning
- Integrated Incident Management Teams and Exercise Regimes; and
- Training Programs.

This strategic approach will consolidate the positive legacy evidenced by the large volume of programs and initiatives instigated by industry and agencies during the term of the Taskforce. There are two key components to the ongoing integrated model that has been further developed and strengthened in the Latrobe Valley. Those being; the Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group and the CFA's Industry Forum which are scheduled to meet regularly to provide a collaborative network for industry and agencies to work together to continue the Taskforce legacy and strategic direction set as part of its Forward Plan.

“ As a representative on the State Smoke Working Group August 2015 – the group has achieved the development of the State Smoke Protocols which are relevant for all first responders and provides timely information to the community. Lessons learned from the Hazelwood Mine Fire and the subsequent Inquiry has enabled a considerable amount of effort to improve the way responder agencies deal with smoke and how it’s communicated to agencies and the community. The affirmations and recommendations from the Inquiry and the governance arrangements will ensure the lessons learned continue with technology development and improvement. ”

Andrew Humberstone - Superintendent, Victoria Police

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This document requires the following approval:

NAME	TITLE	ORGANISATION
Craig Lapsley PSM	Emergency Management Commissioner	Emergency Management Victoria

Audience


The audience for this document is Inter Departmental Committee, Coal Mines Emergency Management Taskforce members, agencies, industries and community.

Appendix

ACRONYMS	DESCRIPTION
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
BWE	Bucket Wheel Excavator
CAFS	Compressed Air Foam System
CBEM	Community Based Emergency Management
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CGEIG	Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group
CO	Carbon Monoxide
DEDJTR	Department Economic, Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DHHS	Department of Health & Human Services
DSOP	District Standard Operating Procedure
EMLO	Emergency Management Liaison Officer
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESLO	Emergency Services Liaison Officer
FDI	Fire Danger Index
FDP	Fire Danger Period
HCMFI	Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry
IC	Incident Controller
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICS	Incident Command System
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
RDO	Rostered Duty Officer (CFA)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
VFRR	Victorian Fire Risk Register
WorkSafe	WorkSafe Victoria



Joint CFA and AGL exercise with the Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) capabilities



“ The Taskforce has been a success and was instrumental in working off the back of established networks. It has delivered more robust arrangements and clarification of processes.

EMV facilitated targeted collaboration between different groups and challenged us to explore a wide spectrum of current arrangements to manage any type of emergency that could occur along with the learnings from the recent Hazelwood Mine Fire.

The Taskforce site visits and industry openness to show their works in response to government and community concerns has seen an impressive amount of excellence across all major mines, in the following areas:

- **Prevention works** - vegetation management, water coverage and drainage etc
- **Preparation** - staff training, equipment, design, auditing and validating
- **Response** - emergency management readiness and trigger response plans
- **Recovery strategies** - including enhanced public communications

The Latrobe exercising of emergency arrangements through Latrobe 15 and 16 echoed the success of the Taskforce and the improvements that it had made with all stakeholders. This was clearly demonstrated throughout both exercises and the willingness to work together.

Further to this, the level of commitment from all involved from government, regulators, agencies and industry should be commended, including the exceptional leadership from EMV.

I have no doubt that Victoria is now a more resilient, agile, and ready state to deal with emergencies as a result of the works completed. ”

Nick Demetrios - Manager Group Security Operations AGL Manager Group Security Operations

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