

Dear Board of Inquiry,

I am writing this submission to request that your investigation take account of the following:

1. Health effects: The health effects of the fire need to be fully understood, and the inquiry should recommend a separate public inquiry into the long-term health effects on the affected population.
2. Fire policy: If the fire prevention policy was adequate, then the fire should not have taken hold. Media reports have suggested that the fire-fighting pipes and sprinklers had been removed, which is alarming if true.
3. Origins of fire: I was shocked to learn that there are small fires in the mine that have been burning for years. The Inquiry should investigate the source of the fire, and the contributing role these "hot-spots" in the mine might have made to the outbreak of the mine fire.
4. Rehabilitation bond: Rehabilitation means the mine site should be left clean and safe. I am concerned that the very small rehabilitation bond for the Hazelwood mine will mean GDF Suez is less likely to properly rehabilitate the site, leaving a burden of possibly hundreds of millions of dollars to Victoria taxpayers.
5. Quality of rehabilitation: Hazelwood's mining licence requires them to do "progressive rehabilitation" of the mine. I am concerned that the coal in an area that should have been rehabilitated as it hadn't been mined for decades was still able to catch on fire. It suggests that existing rehabilitation requirements were inadequate or not enforced.
6. Enforceable timelines: I think the Hazelwood Work Plan should have enforceable timelines for rehabilitation, to ensure disused parts of the mine are rehabilitated and made safe as quickly as possible.
7. Public findings: Given that this inquiry is investigating the causes of a major public health disaster, I feel it is important that the inquiry's findings be made public very shortly after the completion of your report.

I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the inquiry.