

**IN THE MATTER OF  
The Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry**

**STATEMENT OF ADAM WATSON**

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Date of Document: 20 May 2014  
Filed on behalf of: The State of Victoria  
Prepared by:  
Victorian Government Solicitor  
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Attention: Peter Stewart

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I, Adam Watson, c/o 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Manager of Investigations, Enforcement Group, Victorian WorkCover Authority (VWA), can say as follows:

1. My full name is Adam Andrew Watson. My date of birth is 6 February 1975.
2. I am Manager of Investigations, in the Enforcement Group, of the VWA based at 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria.
3. I have been in this role since June 2013. My primary responsibility involves managing the investigations undertaken by the VWA pursuant to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the *Accident Compensation Act 1985* and their associated regulations.
4. I hold the following qualifications:
  - 4.1 Diploma in Front Line Management, Melbourne Business School;
  - 4.2 Diploma of Government (Investigations), Box Hill TAFE; and
  - 4.3 Master of Business (Government), Victoria University.
5. I have been an employee of VWA since May 2005 and have been involved in the management of investigations for approximately one year. Prior to commencing my current role, I was Team Leader of OHS Investigations for the Enforcement Group with the VWA and prior to that I was employed as Senior Investigator in OHS with the VWA.
6. This Statement has been prepared pursuant to the request made by Counsel assisting the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Board of Inquiry at a meeting on 14 May 2014 and by letter of the Victorian Government Solicitor (the **Letter**), in particular items 12 and 13 of the Letter.

**Has WorkSafe commenced an investigation into any aspect of the fires that burned in the Hazelwood Coal Mine (the Mine) from 9 February 2014?**

7. Yes.

**If so explain the focus and scope of the investigation and has WorkSafe taken any compliance action (notices or prosecutions) in relation to the fires at the Mine? Attach any relevant documents.**

8. The VWA (WorkSafe) has commenced an investigation into the fires that burned in the Mine in line with the *WorkSafe Compliance and Enforcement Policy* (July 2005), which states that all "dutyholders are subject to inspection by WorkSafe and, where appropriate, the use of enforcement measures", which includes conducting a comprehensive investigation to determine whether a breach of a safety-related law has occurred.
9. It is VWA policy not to discuss the details of ongoing investigations on the basis that it may prejudice the investigation as well as being unfair to any person being investigated.

Dated

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**Adam Watson**