

Hazelwood Mine Fire

Clean Up Recovery Sub-Plan

(For inclusion in the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan)

Version	1
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Review	

Approved by:

Regional Recovery Coordinator

Date:

14/03/14

Distribution:

Clean Up Recovery sub committee
Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee
2014 State Recovery Coordination Team (via State Recovery Coordinator)

1. Background

Task

Local Government Victoria was tasked by the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee to coordinate clean up recovery planning across State Government Departments and agencies for the impacts on Morwell.

Purpose

The purpose of the clean up sub-plan, which will form part of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan, is to outline and enable arrangements to and detail the coordination and management of the delivery of clean up recovery activities in response to the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire.

End State

The ultimate goal for this sub-plan is to support the Morwell community and ensure that they are comfortable and confident to live in a cleaner built environment, which includes their homes, businesses and public amenities.

2. Overview

Context

On 9 February 2014, a fire suspected of having been deliberately lit made its way into the Hazelwood open cut coal mine. The fire generated significant smoke across the town of Morwell and surrounding areas. The Environment Protection Authority has been closely monitoring the particulate matter in the smoke and the Department of Health has been communicating with the public on potential health impacts.

On 28 February 2014, a recommendation was issued for 'at risk' people who live or work in the southern area of Morwell to relocate away from the area near the open cut mine.

On 10 March 2014, the fire was declared to be 'contained' but, as at 14 March, the fire had not yet been extinguished.

The Hazelwood mine fire has created a significant build-up of ash and smoke residue in the Morwell township. The ash and residue has found its way inside most domestic and commercial properties to some degree.

The Victorian Government has committed to work with and support Latrobe City Council in developing, resourcing and implementing a plan to clean ash and smoke residue from the town of Morwell following the fire.

Key Considerations

Residents should be empowered to undertake clean up activities themselves where practicable. This has been demonstrated to build resilience and aid community recovery. However, it is acknowledged that some residents will be unable to clean their own properties for a variety of reasons and it is therefore proposed to offer such residents professional assistance to clean their homes.

Latrobe City Council is responsible for local delivery.

Local resources and contractors will be used wherever possible to support the local economy and build community resilience.

Priorities

- A key priority is to ensure that the community is well informed of planned clean up activities and works, including geographical scope, inclusions/exclusions and timeframes. The active engagement of community groups and organisations is also a priority.

3. Leadership and Coordination

Local Government Victoria is responsible for coordinating clean up recovery planning across State Government Departments and agencies.

The Department of Human Services led Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee is responsible for leading activities with oversight of implementation.

Latrobe City Council is responsible for local delivery.

4. Current Activities

Latrobe City Council has commenced the following activities/programs to support local residents:

- Clean up of public areas
- Established a 1800 number for enquires relating to the clean up

5. Post-fire clean up recovery

Overview

Scope

The Morwell Clean Up Program has four, inter-related elements:

- a) Public Areas Clean Up - Cleaning of streets and other public spaces within the town of Morwell;
- b) Residential Assisted Clean - Professional, assisted cleans of the homes of identified high-needs Morwell residents;
- c) Self Clean Equipment - Free loan of specialised cleaning equipment to the broader Morwell community; and
- d) Information Kits and Communications - Provision of cleaning information and health and safety advice to the Morwell community.

Implementation Model

Menzies International (Menzies) is the incumbent cleaning contractor for Latrobe City Council and will be engaged by Latrobe City Council to manage the clean up of streets and other public spaces in Morwell. Menzies will also act as head-contractor for the 'Assisted

Clean' element of the clean up program. Latrobe City Council will use the emergency procurement provisions of section 186 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to engage Menzies to undertake these tasks.

Menzies will sub-contract the majority of the 'Assisted Cleans' of houses in Morwell to local cleaning contractors. Menzies will initially identify and utilise a number of nominated local contractors to ensure that the work can commence in a timely fashion. These will be supplemented through an expression of interest process (to be undertaken once the program is announced) to ensure that all eligible local contractors are able to be considered for inclusion in the program.

Public Areas Clean Up

Rationale

Since the fire commenced a large amount of ash, and dust has accumulated on the footpaths, roads, windows, shop fronts and public spaces. It is vital this infrastructure is cleaned and restored to its original condition. The council has already increased street and footpath sweeping in order to keep dust to manageable levels, however a complete clean is still required.

Contract

Latrobe City Council is responsible for cleaning public areas. Council will engage a head contractor to undertake the cleaning on its behalf. The contractor will engage suitably qualified subcontractors where required to ensure the timely completion of the works. The head contractor will undertake all project management, including the scheduling of works, under guidance from the council.

Items to be cleaned

All public areas in Morwell require cleaning including the following: (COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FINAL LIST AS PER SPEC)

- Footpaths
- Street furniture
- Walls in the retail district
- Windows in retail district
- Public amenities

Methodology

A combination a sweeping, washing, high pressure cleaning and dusting will be used to remove the ash and dust. Each surface will be assessed and the appropriate action or combination of actions will be undertaken. Workers will be provided high visibility vests branded with Latrobe City Council clean up information to provide the community with a highly visible presence that the town is being cleaned.

Timing

Basic cleaning has already commenced. The full clean will commence Monday 17 March and run for approximately 8 weeks depending on the fire conditions.

Estimated costs

The estimated costs for delivering these activities/programs is \$.....
Funding will be sourced from XXX

Residential Assisted Clean

Rationale

Since the fire commenced a large amount of ash, and dust has accumulated in private residences both internally and externally. Many residents are will be unable, for a variety of reasons, to undertake a comprehensive clean of their property.

Eligibility

It is proposed that all residents in Morwell that currently receive support through the Home and Community Care (HACC) program would be eligible for an assisted clean. This is estimated to be approximately 650 residences. If supported it is proposed to expand the program to all residents of Morwell who are eligible for HACC services but do not currently utilise the program. This is anticipated to be an additional 650 properties.

Contract

Council will engage a head contractor to undertake the cleaning on its behalf. The contractor will engage suitably qualified subcontractors where required to ensure the timely completion of the works. All contractors will be required to have completed the appropriate police checks before commencing works.

Initially the head contractor will approach local companies to subcontract to them to ensure there is capacity to undertake the cleaning as soon as possible. An EOI will simultaneously be prepared by the head contractor and the council to ensure all businesses in the local area that meet the defined criteria are able to participate in the works

The head contractor will undertake all project management, including the scheduling of works under guidance from the council.

An agreed schedule of eligible works (see below) has been developed. The head contractor has developed a per house quote that takes into account the eligible items and provides a fixed fee for properties regardless of their size or the number of items that require cleaning. In this way costs can be managed and the works carried out to an agreed standard. It protects home owners from not having all their property cleaned due to the size or complexity of the works.

Items to be cleaned

Outside

- Clean Windows and window ledges
- Remove ash and dust from back and front verandahs, decks etc including railings and steps.
- Wipe down outdoor furniture.

Inside

- Clean Windows and ledges
- Wipe down Venetian blinds
- Wipe down Light fittings and ceiling fans etc
- Wash hard floors
- HEPA vacuum carpets/ rugs and soft furnishings and curtains if applicable.
- Wipe Skirting boards, architraves and door frames
- Wipe hard surface including bathrooms and laundries to remove dust.

Methodology

All HACC clients will be given a letter by the care team with details of the items that can be cleaned. HACC clients who wish to utilise the service will call a dedicated 1800 number operated by the council. The operator will ensure the eligibility of the client and record the address details, preferred times of cleaning and any special information.

At the completion of each day the council will provide the head contractor with the names, contact details, and other information as required. The head contractor will then schedule the works and advise the client the time of their clean. Should residents require a HACC worker from the council will be present during the clean to allay any fears or concerns the client may have.

A combination a sweeping, washing, high pressure cleaning and dusting will be used to remove the ash and dust. Each surface will be assessed and the appropriate action or combination of actions will be undertaken.

At the completion of the job an itemised list of the cleaning undertaken will be completed and signed by the contractor and the client. A copy will be retained by the client, contractor and head contractor. A copy will be sent to council as proof of works undertaken along with an invoice for payment.

Council will inspect and audit properties to ensure quality and consistency of the works. Clients who are dissatisfied with the service can call the dedicated 1800 number for support and information.

Timing

Basic cleaning of HACC clients has already commenced. The full clean will commence once the ash and smoke has from the fire has ceased and run for approximately 8 weeks.

Estimated costs

The estimated costs for delivering these activities/programs is \$.....
Funding will be sourced from ~~XXX~~

Self Clean - Equipment

Rationale

Since the fire commenced a large amount of ash, and dust has accumulated in private residences both internally and externally. Most residents will be able to remove the dust and ash from their own properties. To help them achieve this specialist equipment will be made available.

Eligibility

It is proposed that all residents in Morwell that do not receive the assisted clean will be eligible to utilise the self clean equipment.

Contract

Council will provide the self clean equipment and manage the booking and distribution of the items to residents.

Items available

- Commercial quality electric high pressure cleaners
- Hose connections
- Hoses
- Extension cords with safety switches
- HEPA 14 approved vacuums

Methodology

Approximately 70 HEPA vacuums have been sourced for loaning to all members of the community. Residents will contact the 1800 number to book a time. Council will manage the booking process. The cleaners can be picked up from the council clean up shop front.

30 high pressure cleaners will also be available, with the option to acquire 30 more if required. Residents will contact the 1800 number to book a time. Council will manage the booking process. Council will deliver the cleaners to residents between 8am and 10am on their scheduled day and pick them up between 4pm and 6pm the same day.

For both sets of equipment detailed operational and safety information will be provided.

Timing

The equipment will be available from next week and be available for loan for a period of three months.

Estimated costs

The estimated costs for delivering these activities/programs is \$.....
Funding will be sourced from XXX

Information Kit and Communications

Rationale

The community will need to have a central point to receive information regarding the clean up and associated options.

Contract

Council will lease a shop and set up an information centre.

Items available

- Car wash vouchers
- Laundry vouchers
- Bucket
- Safety glasses
- Gloves.
- Face mask
- Cleaning instructions
- Loan equipment information
- Thankyou and recognition sheet from supporting business
- Offers from suppliers

Methodology

A 1800 number has been established (1800 017 700) and is staffed by six council operators to take calls from the community on clean up related enquires. Council are leasing a shop front to act as the central information point for the clean up of Morwell. Residents will be able to access a range of information from the shop front as well as pick up a 'Show Bucket'.

The Show Bucket is a standard household bucket that will contain, safety glasses, gloves and face masks. In addition resident will be eligible for two car wash vouchers and one laundry voucher.

The bucket will also contain detailed information on cleaning and how to book the self clean equipment and the options open to residents who are unable to clean for themselves.

1000 buckets are being prepared for distribution, however if demand requires it more will be procured if funding is available.

Timing

The shop front and buckets will be available from early next week. The shop will remain open for as long as the clean up continues which is expected to be 8 to 12 weeks.

Estimated costs

The estimated costs for delivering these activities/programs is \$.....
Funding will be sourced from XXX

6. Communications

The Department of Human Services and Latrobe City Council will coordinate communications and public messaging through the communications and community engagement sub-committee and sub-plan. To ensure continuity with communications and provide a consistent and accurate message, information about the clean up recovery activities will be communicated through channels already established. Communication pathways include:

- The Department of Human Services Recovery website
- Local government avenues
- Existing forums such as the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee.

7. Reporting and Monitoring

The main effort will be to reinforce existing reporting methodologies, as outlined in the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Plan, allowing issues and risks that cannot be treated at appropriate levels to be immediately escalated.

This will be undertaken by the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee to the State Recovery Coordination Team. A parallel stream built within the same reporting methodology focussing on reporting financial expenditure (or projected expenditure) across a range of criteria will also be established to ensure clear and accurate reporting for the state, in line with agreed requirements particularly in relation to NDRRA.