



## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

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13 June 2014

Ms Justine Stansen  
Principal Legal Adviser  
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry  
PO Box 3460  
GIPPSLAND MC VIC 3841

***By email: [justine.stansen@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au](mailto:justine.stansen@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au)***

Dear Ms Stansen

### **Independent Inquiry into Hazelwood Mine Fire Further information provided by Alan Hall**

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During the evidence given by Alan Hall on Friday 6 July 2014, counsel assisting requested further information concerning the provision of relocation assistance to residents of Morwell living north of Commercial Road: see Transcript p. 1490 line 3 ff, and specifically at p. 1491 line 21 ff.

Mr Hall provides the following further information.

'There were 195 first relocation payments made to households north of Commercial Road, Morwell. These include 15 payments made to households along Princes Drive, which is on the north side of, and runs along, the railway line. This contrasts with the 598 first relocation payments made south of Commercial Road.

'The following information shows the process and types of circumstances taken into account in considering relocation payments to households outside of the eligible geographic area in line with the generous and compassionate approach.

'Where people were in the at risk category (pregnant, under 5, over 65, lung/heart condition etc) and outside the geographic criteria, they were referred for an interview assessment. This process was documented in the Q&A Voluntary Relocation Payments document. Initial assessments were conducted by the team leader at the call centre and then referred to the Executive Officer at the CIRC for a decision based on a person's individual circumstances and needs - using a caring and compassionate approach as indicated.'

Giving specific examples would require the disclosure of 'personal information' within the meaning of the *Information Privacy Act 2000* in that it is information about a person whose identity could reasonably be ascertained from the information. They can be provided under

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IPP 2.1(f) if disclosure is, 'required or authorised by or under law.' If the Board is satisfied that this requirement is met, specific illustrative examples can be given which demonstrate that relocation payments were made to households with special needs as far north and east of Commercial Road as the vicinity of the intersection of Alexanders Road and Crinigan Road.

Yours faithfully  
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office

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Andrew Suddick  
General Counsel (Litigation)