

From: [Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry](#)
To: [Hazelwood Info Shared Mailbox](#)
Subject: Morwell Mine Fire Submission
Date: Wednesday, 29 July 2015 5:06:21 PM
Attachments: [Comment-by-Jeff-Simpson-Haztech-Environmental-re-Hazelwood-Mine-Fire-29July2015.docx](#)

Title: Mr

First Name: Jeff

Surname: SIMPSON

Organisation represented (if applicable): Haztech Environmental

Email address: [REDACTED]

Home or office phone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Content of submission (you can choose multiple): Latrobe Valley Mine,
Other (please state)

If Other please state here: 1/ The loss of specialist technical knowledge at the Hazelwood Mine (in this specific case where a fire started in the brown coal, the knowledge that sprinklers are required to be in place and running at ALL times to keep the brown coal wet), has caused the fire.

2/ Related to 1/ The tertiary education system in Australia no longer maintains any courses in such technical specialist areas as hazardous chemicals management at the senior scientist or engineer level, which makes it difficult for the Hazelwood Mine to source technical knowledge (such as why sprinklers should be kept going and the consequences of not doing so).

3/ Related to 2/ The ongoing student numbers per specialist course unit are not sustainable under the current Tertiary funding model (as our area of specialist knowledge can't sustain 30 students per unit year on year), and thus needs alternative funding if we are to have courses for 10 specialists year on year in hazardous chemicals management at the senior scientist or engineer level.

4/ This is just one example in where the loss of expertise in hazardous chemicals management at the senior scientist or engineer level, has lead to an out of control hazard. As our old specialists in this area age, there are fewer and fewer who can do this type of job, as there are no young specialists coming through our Universities to replace them. We now risk having persons who don't know they don't know doing these tasks.

5/ Additionally it raises the problem that large chemical facilities (which the Latrobe Valley Mine is) are now tending to be headed up by Financial and Management trained persons. In the past Technically knowledgeable persons were more likely to head up such facilities.

Please select one of the following options: I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the Inquiry.

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To: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry – re: Latrobe Valley Mine & Other

Date 27 July 2015

Comment from:

Jeff Simpson,
Haztech Environmental
ABN 27 630 291 348

Email: [REDACTED]

1/ The loss of specialist technical knowledge at the Hazelwood Mine (in this specific case were a fire started in the brown coal, the knowledge that sprinklers are required to be in place and running at ALL times to keep the brown coal wet), has caused the fire.

2/ Related to 1/ The tertiary education system in Australia no longer maintains any courses in such technical specialist areas as hazardous chemicals management at the senior scientist or engineer level, which makes it difficult for the Hazelwood Mine to source technical knowledge (such as why sprinklers should be kept going and the consequences of not doing so).

3/ Related to 2/ The ongoing student numbers per specialist course unit are not sustainable under the current Tertiary funding model (as our area of specialist knowledge can't sustain 30 students per unit year on year), and thus needs alternative funding if we are to have courses for 10 specialists year on year in hazardous chemicals management at the senior scientist or engineer level.

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This can lead to poor decisions, particularly around how a facility needs to be run, maintained and updated, as these processes have significant costs. An example that occurred in the USA about 10 years ago found that when they reviewed the 5 BP Refineries, that only one was not going to have the same disaster as occurred at the BP refinery in Texas, because it was the only BP refinery headed up by a technically trained specialist (a Chemical Engineer) who understood the consequences, so ensured that all the maintenance and updates needed were done.

Regards

Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Chemicals & Regulatory Affairs Consultant
Editor & Publisher of 'Hazmat & Environment Notes'
Chemical Control & Hazard Classification Consultant
Prepare, Maintain & Review SDSs & Chemical Labels