



Latrobe Crime Watch News
Latrobe Police Service Area
Neighbourhood Watch Creating Safer Communities
SPECIAL UPDATE EDITION - March 2011



**IMPORTANT
NUMBERS**

Emergency 000

Mobiles 112

State the service you
want - Police,
Ambulance or Fire.

Police:

Boolarra 5169 6222

Churchill 5122 1790

Moe 5127 2222

Morwell 5131 5000

Traralgon 5174 0900

Crime Stoppers

1800 333 000

**Neighbourhood
Watch & Safer
Communities**

Unit - Latrobe PSA

L/S/C Brett Godden

5131 5085

[brett.godden@police](mailto:brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au)

.vic.gov.au

Facebook: Senior
Constable Brett

Child Protection

13 12 78

Consumer Affairs

5116 5701.

Dept Primary Industry
136186

Latrobe City
1300 367 700

Nurse on Call
1300 606 024

Poisons Information
13 11 26

VicRoads
131170

COMING EVENTS: OPEN INVITATION TO ALL LATROBE VALLEY RESIDENTS

Wednesday 6th April 2011 - Morwell Town Meeting-Milne Bay Room, Morwell RSL, Elgin St - 7 pm

Wednesday 15th June 2011 - NHW Police Showband & Pipe Band Concert - Kernot Hall Morwell

CLOSURE OF PRINCES FREEWAY MORWELL

All Latrobe Valley residents are by now well aware of the closure of the Princes Freeway (Morwell Bypass) at Morwell in both directions due to the impact of recent rainfall and a potential landslip.

East and westbound traffic is being diverted through the township of Morwell along Princes Drive (the old Princes Highway). The diversions are constantly under review. The diversions will remain in place for a minimum of the next three months. This is because of the time needed to monitor and assess the area of concern.

Last week it was found some of the freeway cracks had increased in size and new small cracks were found in the tennis court asphalt at the Morwell Recreation Reserve at the south end of Hazelwood Road.

On Friday 25th February, a police information caravan was set up at the intersection of Wallace Street and Hazelwood Road to update residents who live near the area of concern. Also, fencing was erected near the tennis courts as a precautionary measure to keep sightseers away and to preserve the cracks so proper monitoring can occur.

We reiterate homes in and around Wallace Street are not likely to be impacted by this event.

Local residents in the Wallace Street area were door-knocked and updated with an information newsletter, Victoria Police Relocation Plan Advice and Latrobe City Council information. In the unlikely event that police decide residents need to activate their plans the Senior Citizens Centre in Maryvale Crescent is the specified registration point. Police have been advised that if relocation is necessary there will be plenty of time to do so in an orderly manner so there is no need for any panic.

A 4 step plan has been developed to address the issue;

1. To drain the groundwater - Hazelwood mine will drill a series of horizontal holes into the northern wall of the mine. This commenced on 25th February.
2. Examine the catchment from the freeway and storm water outflow from Morwell and redesign the overflow or reengineer the overflow drain running between the freeway and the mine. This involves the DPI, Latrobe City Council, Vicroads and International Power Hazelwood.
3. A comprehensive risk assessment will examine all areas of concern and include assessing the effectiveness of the mitigation strategies. This will be overseen by the DPI.
4. A comprehensive Real Time monitoring of the area of concern is to be implemented. VicRoads is already monitoring the freeway and the mine will commence its own monitoring shortly. Monitoring will include the mine, the freeway, adjacent land and land within the town of Morwell where survey pins are already located.

I undertake to provide further information in the form of a fortnightly newsletter such as this. In the event of anything in the meantime, we will of course immediately notify residents.

Regards

Geoff Newby
Superintendent
Incident Controller

SPECIAL UPDATE EDITION - CLOSURE OF PRINCES FREEWAY MORWELL

Police wish to dispel circulating rumours that are placing undue stress on Wallace Street residents and clarify that;

- there is not a 20 meter sinkhole in the middle of the freeway;
- there is not a fire burning in the wall of the mine causing the problems;
- Wallace Street homes are considered safe and are not in danger of falling into a sink hole;
- the government and City of Latrobe/Shire are not intending to purchase homes in Wallace Street.

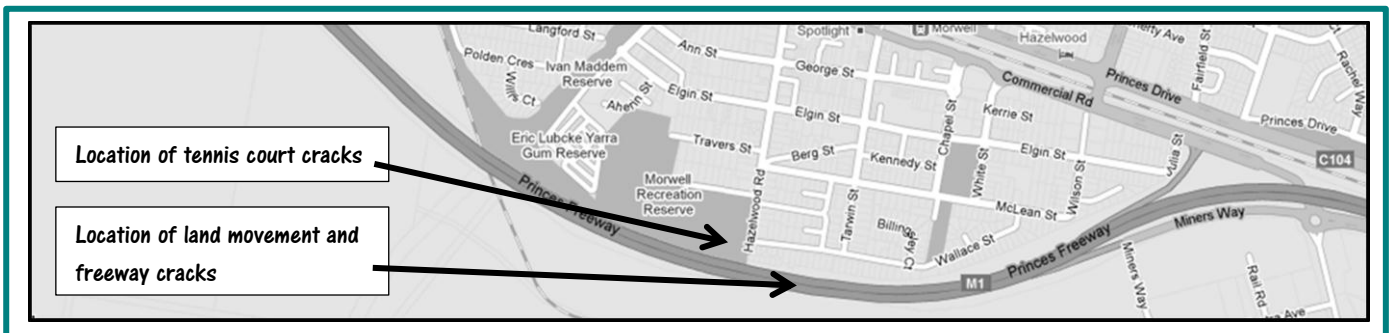
In the unlikely event that police decide residents need to activate their plans, or if you need assistance or advice when completing your relocation plan please do not hesitate to contact Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden, Morwell's Community Liaison Officer and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. Brett can be contacted on 5131 5085.

To report structural issues contact the DPI (Department of Primary Industry) customer service line on 136186. Further information can be viewed at the Department's web site at www.dpi.vic.gov.au. In the search engine type in 'Hazelwood Mine North Batter' and this should bring up results. In mining terms a 'batter' is "The inward slope from bottom to top of the face of a wall."

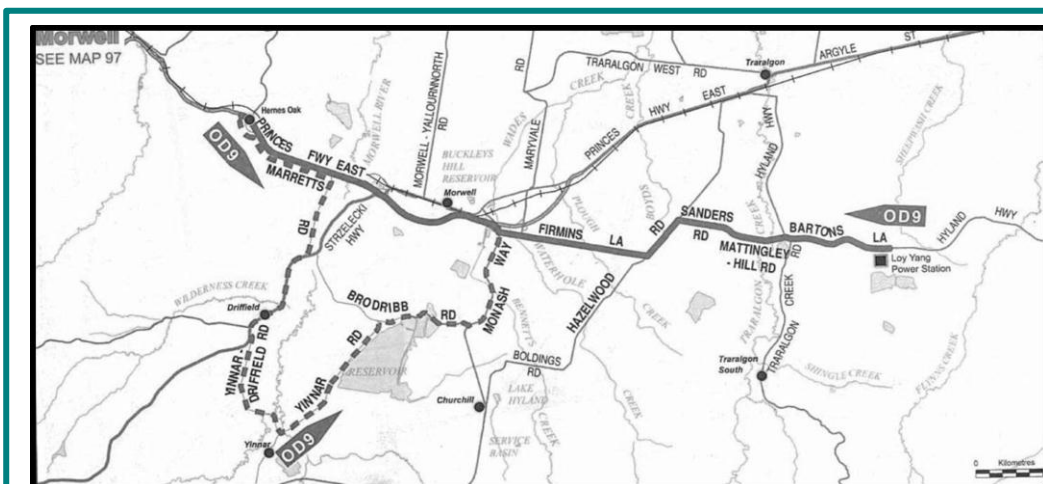
For Freeway closure information contact VicRoads on 131170 or visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au. At this stage there is a link in red on the home page called "Princes Freeway - Morwell Bypass Closure" so click on "more information" button to find the latest news.

For assistance at a local government level contact Latrobe City on 1300 367 700.

LOCATION OF CRACKS AND LAND MOVEMENT



OVER DIMENSIONAL VEHICLES MUST USE OD9 ROUTE



Eastbound - OD9 begins at the Hearne's Oak exit off the highway. Westbound - OD9 begins from the Hyland Highway at Traralgon or continuing on the diversion following the VMS signs, left down Tramway Road, right at Firmins Lane and left at Monash Way where OD9 begins.

To receive this newsletter electronically by email, simply email Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden at Latrobe's Safer Community Unit at brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au requesting to be added to the electronic mail list.

Police remind the community if they see something suspicious they should ring 000 or if they have information in relation to an offence contact Crime-stoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.