

The Saturday Age on the 5 December 2015 reports

AUSNET Scorched

For the full story following the link to <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/coroner-finds-ausnet-could-have-prevented-marysvilles-devastating-black-saturday-bushfire-20151204-9lfmuj.html>

Residents are reported as angry but not surprised at the finding from the State Coroner's report 7 years after the tragedy. And for some there is a sense of relief that this long Black Saturday Case has reached its end.

State Coroner, Judge Ian Gray, outlined extraordinary details that were to this point unheard of by the public, finding the bushfire that destroyed Marysville could have been prevented if AusNet has followed basic safety standards.

The Age reported that *AusNet Services said it had the deepest sympathy for those impacted by the Black Saturday bushfires, but disagreed with the coroner's conclusions.*

"We don't agree with the [Coroner's] findings as they were determined without a hearing and the evidence upon which they are based was untested," a company spokesman said.



Judge Gray advised he not hold an inquest. To do so would duplicate work completed by the royal commission and the class action lawsuit.

The Age reported that the Judge conveyed sincere condolences to the families of the 40 people who died as a result of the Murrindindi fire.

The Age also reported that Energy Safe Victoria said it had insufficient evidence to prove to the required criminal standard that AusNet had breached its general duties on Black Saturday.

A full report and photos can be seen on <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/coroner-finds-ausnet-could-have-prevented-marysvilles-devastating-black-saturday-bushfire-20151204-glfmuj.html>

Report by Ruth Edge – Cardinia Shire Council