

# TRANSCRIPT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

### Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

Sale — 30 June 2015

#### Members

Mr David Davis — Chair

Ms Samantha Dunn

Ms Harriet Shing — Deputy Chair

Mr Shaun Leane

Ms Melina Bath

Ms Gayle Tierney

Mr Richard Dalla-Riva

Mr Daniel Young

#### Participating Members

Mr Jeff Bourman

Mr James Purcell

Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr Simon Ramsay

#### Staff

Secretary: Mr Keir Delaney

Research officer: Ms Annemarie Burt

#### Witness

Mr Ronald Wangman.

**Necessary corrections to be notified to  
executive officer of committee**

**Mr WANGMAN** — My name is Ron Wangman. I am from [REDACTED]. I want to bring to your attention the impact to me as a beef farmer. The last drought ran for 13 years. The impact of that drought in our local area was that our local reservoir ran down to 4 per cent. Therefore the local water authority — the South Gippsland water authority — had to obtain licences from Southern Rural Water to draw water from groundwater bores. In our area we sit on a groundwater system called the Woorayl Basin.

**The CHAIR** — You might want to spell that for us later.

**Mr WANGMAN** — Later.

**The CHAIR** — That is all right. I just want to make sure that Hansard gets it.

**Mr WANGMAN** — If this industry comes to our area, the water is a big elephant in the room. We are going to have a draw down on water and possible contamination. No-one can prove either way what it is going to be. The Leongatha Murray Goulburn Factory, and they were noted as a big user of water, so they have had to look at their water systems and become more efficient. If they are drawing from that bore and the community is drawing from that bore, we are in trouble the next time we have a drought if that water system is affected. That is a local impact in my area.

The second thing is that we have seismic activity in the area. In our area we have the Strzelecki fault, and we have numerous tremors. Now something that has not been mentioned is about foreign migration of gas. There is a certain amount of gas that will be drawn to the wellhead, but if we have particular fault lines in that area, there is a possibility of foreign migration of gas.

If we go to a day where it is 40 degrees, then we have the potential for bushfires. We have already had a royal commission into faulty infrastructure in relation to a powerline company. On Black Saturday we lost a lot of lives, so this is another area that we need to consider. I do not think the CFA have a position on that. It was mentioned early this morning by one of the speakers that in relation to a fire pit they had problems. But foreign migration of gas would be another area to also look closely at. Thank you for your time.

**Ms SHING** — Thank you.

**Witness withdrew.**