

TRANSCRIPT

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the CFA training college at Fiskville

Melbourne — 25 May 2015

Members

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Mr Kenneth Lee.

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

The CHAIR — Welcome to everybody, and thank you for attending the second public hearing of the inquiry into the Fiskville CFA training centre. The format of today's hearing will be a little different to previous hearings. Professor Rob Joy, author of the CFA-commissioned report of the investigation into the acquisition, use and storage of materials used in live fire training and possible contamination of the Fiskville site, will give evidence later today via audiolink from Tasmania; Professor Joy is not well enough to travel. Mr Colin Cobb, a former CFA instructor and full-time employee, will give evidence to the committee in private, although he has requested that the transcript of his evidence be made public. The transcript of proceedings should be available in approximately three weeks.

I also apologise for the late change to the schedule of the public hearing this morning. Originally the Environment Protection Authority was to give evidence at 10.00 a.m. today. However, the committee, in view of last week's evidence, has sought further documents from the EPA and is waiting on the official transcript. This was a decision of the committee, not the EPA. The committee has been provided with lists of hundreds of thousands of documents from various departments and statutory authorities relating to Fiskville operations, and as you can appreciate, sorting through these documents is a mammoth task. In order to uncover the truth, the committee has provided this flexible and cooperative approach to the taking of evidence so that we will all receive a full and comprehensive account of the Fiskville training centre and its effects on people's lives. Notwithstanding this approach, we also understand that the questioning and testing of evidence given must be rigorous and that the subject of all allegations be given the opportunity to respond.

In saying that, all evidence taken by this committee is taken under the provisions of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, attracts parliamentary privilege and is protected from judicial review. Any comments made outside the precincts of the hearings are not protected by parliamentary privilege.

All evidence given today is being recorded. Witnesses will be provided with proof versions of the transcripts in accordance with the guidelines for public hearings. I remind members of the public gallery that only invited witnesses are able to speak to the committee today, and members of the media are asked to observe the media guidelines.

I now introduce Mr Lee. If you would like to go ahead and, as has been explained, give us a little explanation of why you are here and your experiences, we will then ask you a number of questions. Thanks, and take your time.

Mr LEE — Good morning. My name is Ken Lee, and I was a PAD supervisor at Fiskville for 20 years. I was born in Bacchus Marsh, grew up in Ballan and did my schooling in Ballan and high schooling in Ballarat. I was a true local resident. I think my mother used to work at Fiskville back before the CFA bought it. In 1979 I became a PAD operator at Fiskville. To explain, a PAD operator is a practical drill area operator, lighting fires and obtaining fuels for fires — timber, oils, petroleum. In late 1979 I was promoted to PAD supervisor, and from that point on I was responsible for supervision of the operators, their rosters and timesheets, and ordering timbers and fuels. At the start it was approximately 50 per cent practical and 50 per cent clerical. Most of the practical was evenings and weekends, because that is when the volunteers could come in and train. My time over the next 20 years increased to clerical and supervision only, and I retired from the CFA in December 1999.

Regarding term of reference 1, from what I recall in the early 1980s we picked up chemicals, oils and fuels in an old converted fire truck from service stations, chemical companies, fuel depots and various other places. Timber was picked up in our tray truck, and quite a lot of liquids were delivered by semitrailer, with 200-litre drums stacked on top of one another of different types of fuels. Some were not even labelled. After their use most of the drums were buried on the grounds, a lot of them still with part of their contents in them.

Regarding term of reference 2, my health issues are that I am on a disability pension at the moment due to asthma and bowel cancer. I had my bowel removed in August 2013 and have a stoma and colostomy bag fitted. As a result I go to hospital for a colonoscopy every 12 months to check for the return of cancer. I do have to ask whether I would have had these problems if I had not sucked in all the smoke and chemicals for the 20 years I was at Fiskville. My biggest fear is for my children, who spent a lot of time at Fiskville playing and enjoying time with the families that lived on site, riding their bikes, fishing in the dams et cetera.

Regarding term of reference 3, I was employed and worked directly under the manager, John McPhee, for a number of years. Then the system changed, and I worked directly under the then officer in charge, Brian Potter.

I felt a bit guilty in the role I played, but after speaking to the ex-chief officer, Brian, he assured me that my part was always done on his orders and that he took his orders from the board.

Regarding term of reference 4, I have no professional ability to advise on this particular reference, apart from being able, to the best of my ability, to show where the majority of chemicals were disposed of on the property in the 20 years I was there.

Regarding term of reference 5, I do not wish to pre-empt the committee's findings with regard to the terms of reference. However, I would like to see that they see fit to announce some form of compensation to cover the out-of-pocket medical expenses at least. In my case it is approximately \$10 000 after Medicare and private health insurance were taken out. I know this would be only a small part of providing justice for the victims and their families. So many deaths in the one workplace are no coincidence. Victims and their families need to be compensated.

Thank you for listening to my point of view. To finish off I would like to end with a reading of my son's submission, which is only a very short one:

Some thoughts from a son of Fiskville.

We fished, splashed, played in its dams.

We ate the redfin and eels from its depths.

We stood around with our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters as the yearly Christmas bonfire burned, charged by wooden pallets whose origins, and uses, have long since been forgotten.

We rode our bikes, played and explored in and around the piles of rubbish and drums, swirling sticks through the 'shiny rainbows' that floated on top of the drains and puddles, patiently waiting for our fathers to finish their work.

We gloried in the smell of the protective clothing we played 'fireman' in.

We spent hours, not in training — well, a few years of that too for some of us, later in life — but in awe at what our fathers were doing: making a difference and teaching others how to save lives; watching the glow, reflecting in the heat and breathing in the smoke of the fires of Fiskville.

We simply did not know.

Our fathers did not know.

My father did not know.

I am a CFA Chairman's Scholarship recipient, a proud former member of the Fiskville family and the son of a Fiskville PAD supervisor of 20 years ... I have not been in touch with other sons or daughters of Fiskville, but if my own feelings are anything to go by, they are probably living in fear of ending up with conditions like many of our fathers. My father only has half his intestines remaining intact, due to cancer; however, I am eternally thankful that, unlike many other unfortunate sons and daughters of Fiskville, my father is still alive.

The CHAIR — Thank you for that; very touching. During the time that you were at Fiskville working for 20 years — because this is when there was health and safety legislation and all sorts of other provisions about protecting people from unsafe environments — was there at any time any mention from any person in charge or a person of authority about health and safety risks or considerations or warning people of any of the risks while working there?

Mr LEE — Yes. It is a gradual thing. Twenty years ago we had drums there. We would tip the fuels into a Knowles bucket usually with a wire handle, carry the fuel down and tip it on and light it. Then as it became more sophisticated pipework and that went in, and it was done by turning taps on, and that would light the fuel.

Over the years there were many different stages where no-one knew, as my son said, what was in the drums or what we were actually burning and all that at the time. Then finally they decided, 'All right, we've got a problem here. We don't know what we're burning. We'll stop using that and just use petrol and diesel and things we know about'. The thing was that happened over a period and drums just sat there that we had there. They stopped that, then they decided to bury some.

Cleaning out the pits, normally once a year we would get a scraper in and scrape out all our pits, and all the sludge and rubbish that had built up over the 12 months would be scraped out. A local farmer would come in with his tractor and plough up the stuff into the soil to get rid of it.

The CHAIR — As a PAD supervisor were you ever given any training about how to talk to people about protective clothing or what you should and should not do, whether you should allow things to get in contact with your skin or breathing things in?

Mr LEE — When I first started there, there was nothing — we even did not wear gloves. Over a few years then it started: ‘All right, you have to wear gloves when you’re working with these chemicals’ — they found out. Then after that you had to have a certain amount of clothing on, like protective coats and things. A lot did not like wearing the protective coats in the summer because they were very heavy and very hot, but it gradually eventuated until in the end, when I left, it was at the stage where they were talking about using breathing apparatus for everyone that handled the fuel. So it has gone from nothing at the start of 20 years up to some sort of level of protection when I left.

Mr McCURDY — Thanks, Mr Lee, for your contribution. With OHS and dangerous goods handling things have changed, as you said, over the years. At each given time along that time frame did you believe you were complying with dangerous goods in the way you were handling dangerous goods, whether it was the 80s or the 90s or beyond?

Mr LEE — Yes. For a start there was nothing. No-one even spoke about or mentioned it — there was nothing — then they sent myself away to do an occupational health and safety course. That started a thing, and then a part way or a bit more into my time they actually formed a committee and started to find out what we were handling, how we were handling it and things like that. In the end everyone was doing occupational health and safety by the time I finished at 20 years.

Mr McCURDY — They certainly would not comply today with what was happening early on, but as time went on you felt there were significant changes taking place to comply?

Mr LEE — There was significant change over that 20 years, yes.

Mr RICHARDSON — Thanks for coming in, Ken. Just a couple of questions touching on your opening statements, particularly taking your mind back to when there was an identification of particular chemicals or substances that should not be burnt. You said that there was a direction that that should not be burnt or something should not be. Do you recall what those chemicals were and what sequence of events transpired to get to that point of decision and how that came about from the authority?

Mr LEE — The main one was when we got the 200-litre drums of chemicals in. There was a full semitrailer load, sometimes two, and we had to have them stacked two high, so it was a number of them. They would come in from fuel companies; the Australian Institute of Petroleum used to get them. What they did was they would supply this fuel in the 200-litre drums, which was chemicals from companies like ICI and places like that. Those drums, quite a few of them were labelled but the majority of them just had texta on them saying what was in them or nothing at all. Because when the chemical companies cleaned out their tanks they used to just put it into 200-litre drums, and that was the way of them getting rid of it.

What would happen is that they would come up and train. They used to do it in two-week blocks — the Australian Institute of Petroleum or AFPA — and when they came up and did their two-week block, they would not be charged for fuel because they supplied fuel, so it cut their costs down. They never, ever burnt all the fuel that they brought up, so that gave us fuel for quite a bit of training, so it was a cost thing. We simply did not know what was in those drums. They could be anything. They could have washed out one tank and put some in, washed out another tank and put some in. There were various different things.

We used to get a lot of aviation fuel. Once it has been into a helicopter or a plane or whatever else, it has a certain use-by date on it. The use-by date runs out so they would get rid of it and we would get it. It could be contaminated. It could have water in it. Some of the drums we tipped out and they barely lit because of the water content and that in them, but others were pure fuel — methanol and ethanol and many, many different types. But no-one knew what these actual fuels were.

Mr RICHARDSON — So when there was a direction that that was no longer the way to go — no longer burning these sump fuels — what was the process from the CFA to better inform you and people at Fiskville to stay away from those kinds of chemicals? To give you a bit of background, we heard from a petroleum representative last week saying that they had clean water. They had particular fuels that they burnt on site that were completely different to what was parallel with Fiskville at the time. Were you aware of other training procedures that were differing from Fiskville, where they were not using these types of fuels?

Mr LEE — Not really, no. I was not myself, no. I cannot say who or where the decision came to stop using the things, but it was over a period. We were told we could not use some drums but we could use the Avgas drums, and over a period we eventually stopped using the drums altogether and then they sat there for a long, long time. It could be anything up to a couple of years and they started to rust, leak out onto the ground. So they said, 'Right, it's time that we got rid of them', and so they came up with thing of burying them.

Mr RAMSAY — Thank you, Mr Lee. I have a two-part question, if I may. The first question is in relation to the use of dangerous goods at that period of time that you were working at Fiskville and whether it met the regulatory standards, which was part of some of the questions the other committee have asked. I am unclear about who was responsible for the oversighting of the use of the chemicals at that time, whether the EPA had a responsibility in relation to the use of the chemicals and the firefighters who had access to them and also the CFA management in relation to adhering to the occ. health and safety standards. Even at that time there must have been some. Do you have a comment on that?

If I can do part B as well: in relation to the contamination of water, we have heard testimony from a previous public hearing where there was concern about contamination of water tanks in cottages that were using rainwater tanks, but even reticulated water from the Ballan supplies in relation to its colour and taste. We are trying to get an understanding of both the water contamination as well as the pre-1999 use of those chemicals that seemed to be undocumented and unrecorded in relation to what they were.

Mr LEE — As far as the EPA, I would say — this has to be an estimate by me — the first thing is they were not even involved; they did not know about it. I do not think anyone ever came onto the property, as far as I know, in that early time. Gradually it came to a few people coming and having a look at it, but there was no actual involvement. As far as I know, no-one has written anything or taken anything at all that I know of during that early period. After that, as I said, it was very gradual, the EPA becoming involved.

As far as the water, again we recycled all the water. Everything we used on the place went into a big tank and it was pumped back around. That recycled water was only on the fire training ground. It was not at the houses or down where they slept or anything like that. It was only recycled within the fire training ground.

You said about the tanks. There were a lot of tanks on Fiskville and every one of them I think — you have already seen some photos of those. Clouds of smoke would come up. They would just turn everything black. You would see the firefighters when they would come out; they were just covered in black soot. That soot was coming down on top of all the buildings and as soon as it rained it was washed into the water tanks. That is how they became contaminated.

As for the Ballan water being brown and dirty, that happened in Ballan. It was an old reservoir, Ballan, and it had very dirty water. Fiskville was no different to any of the streets around or the town or anything else. They used to all suffer with very dirty water there. Ballan ended up closing its reservoir down and getting its water from Ballarat. They put in a large pipeline down there and that altered the dirty chocolate water that a lot of people have been talking about. But it took a long, long time to get that chocolate out of the water mains there. Does that answer your question?

Mr RAMSAY — Yes, thank you.

Ms WARD — Hi, Ken. How are you going? Thank you very much for coming along to see us today to give your submission. I have a couple of questions. With what you have just said to us today, you mentioned that at some point in your time at Fiskville there was a conversation around, 'There's a bit of a problem with the way that we're using these chemicals with these liquids and we need to change some things. We need to stop burning and we need to use different fuels'. Do you remember when that happened?

Mr LEE — No. Quite a few people have asked me that. The best estimate I can come across is halfway through my time there, so 10 years.

Ms WARD — So towards the end of the 80s maybe?

Mr LEE — Yes.

Ms WARD — And how did that conversation occur? Do you remember what led to it or how the conversation happened?

Mr LEE — No. There was general feedback to me from up above. From how high up it came, I do not know. There was just general feedback about finding out what chemicals they were. We did spend quite a bit of time while still burning trying to find out what they were, where they came from, and that, as I said, it was just various chemical companies — Dulux Paint was one. They sent a lot of stuff up there. It was just their washout from their tanks. It was very volatile and made great fires. The way most of the fires were made, you put some of that volatile chemical in, put a match in it — vroom! It burns away and you have got no fire. You have got to have enough fire for the firefighters to get time to drive up, roll out their hoses and that. How it was kept going was sump oil and that was put in first and the more volatile chemicals were put on top, and they were there to set the thing alight, to get that sump oil hot and burning. Once they had the big fire burning, it would just keep burning until they put it out.

Ms WARD — Do you know the processes that were undertaken in order to source these materials? You talk about the semitrailers coming and you talk about the fire truck going out to pick things up. Do you know what the process was to obtain the fuels? I know that we have had prior testimony that has spoken about some phone calls being made of people saying, 'I've got some stuff you guys wanted'.

Mr LEE — Yes.

Ms WARD — Do you know what the process was? Was there any formal process that was undertaken in order to obtain these fuels?

Mr LEE — No, there was not any formal process at all. It was simply, as you said, someone, particularly the service stations and that. It was a local thing. They had our phone number. Sometimes they would speak to me, sometimes to the manager, even just the girl on the switchboard. They would leave a message, 'We have sump oil for pick up'. The little Austin tanker used to go out and pick it up. It was pretty well constant. Most days of the week one of the PAD staff would be in the tanker, go out and go to the Geelong area one day, the Ballarat area the other day and somewhere else the next, pump out their sump oil and bring it back. If we needed it in the pits, he would back up to the pit and tip it in. If the pit had enough in it, he would just pump it into the 44-gallon drums and leave it in the compound.

That is another thing — the compound. You said about the drums. When I first started at Fiskville the first lot of drums came to Fiskville. They drove up the road, came there and just rolled the drums off the semitrailer onto the side of the road, and that was it. They just lay lengthways along the road there for quite a few hundred metres, of just drums of unknown chemicals. Today you would — you know, it is hard to think.

Ms WARD — Did the method of delivering and picking up change in the time that you were at Fiskville?

Mr LEE — Did — —

Ms WARD — Did the method of picking up or delivering fuels change while you were at Fiskville in terms of the semitrailers just turning up and putting them on the ground? Did that process change?

Mr LEE — Yes, the whole thing. As I said, they just rolled them off onto the side of the things. Then after a couple of years they built a compound and put a fence around it, and they were taking it into the compound. They were unloaded with a forklift, stacked there.

Ms WARD — Who was doing the unloading? The drivers, the chemical companies or Fiskville staff?

Mr LEE — No, the PAD staff. They would ring up and say, 'We've got a load of drums; when will you accept them?', and we would say, 'The Tuesday will be all right. We'll have someone available with a forklift

to unload them and stack them'. But quite often the drums were rusty and leaking by the time they got there. They were not, you know, all good drums or anything else. I would say they had used up all their old drums to put the stuff in. So the PAD compound area where it was contained was actually leaching down into the ground from the time they arrived until we used them.

Ms WARD — Were there any receipts or anything kept in terms of when deliveries were made?

Mr LEE — No.

Ms WARD — And were there any payments made from either Fiskville or the CFA or those who were making deliveries?

Mr LEE — No, there was nothing. The chemical companies were looking for somewhere to get rid of the chemicals; we were looking for something to ignite the fires. The cost of petrol would have been astronomical — to start tipping 44-gallon drums of petrol in there to light — so we could not do it. So they just used these, and no-one knew what was in the drums. As I said before, some of them had labels on — but whether that was the stuff that was in it — some did not have any labels on at all, from the paint companies. Some of the drums you would tip them up and the sludge that was in there was that thick that it would not run out the drum.

Ms WARD — My last question on this issue: was there any training given to you or your staff in handling chemicals?

Mr LEE — No. Not for a start, no.

Ms WARD — When did training come in?

Mr LEE — I would not like to say. I could not put a time on it. But as I said before, I was sent to occupational health and safety — it started with me and then fed down to the PAD operators and that. It just came over the years. There was not a set time where this stopped and that started, sort of thing. The only time that it actually came to a direct point was when they said, 'We're not going to burn anymore, and we need to bury what is there' — well, what they ended up doing with it.

The CHAIR — Mr Lee, when did you become aware that you thought that your work at Fiskville and your health were connected? How did you become aware of that?

Mr LEE — I did not. It was simply a fluke that in 2013 I went to the doctor for a check-up and some tests and I tested positive to a bowel cancer test, and within three weeks I had lost my bowels. So that was it, sort of thing. As far as my asthma, I have had trouble — a slight problem; you know, just one puff with a puffer I could get away with. That always worried me, but it is something that I have got away with over the years. We moved to Queensland, and just moving there helped greatly, in the different climate.

The CHAIR — That is good.

Mr LEE — Other than that, I have had some melanomas removed.

The CHAIR — Did the CFA at any stage try to contact you, or did you get any communication from them wanting to follow up in terms of any health issues that you had?

Mr LEE — No. The first time I got a contact was when the Rob Joy inquiry was on. At that point they asked would I do a medical and have a 12-month medical every year for the next five years.

The CHAIR — Do you get the results of that medical?

Mr LEE — Yes. The local doctor did the medical from then on, and I have got a copy and one copy has been sent to the CFA.

The CHAIR — Thanks.

Mr McCURDY — Mr Lee, obviously you would be aware that Fiskville was closed down recently. What is your view on the closure of Fiskville?

Mr LEE — I enjoyed my time there. The staff I worked with there were fantastic, loved the place. But I know what is in the grounds and that. If it was my point of view, I would say clean it up whatever it costs, and keep it going. They have to have fire training. You just cannot stop training because of this thing that was wrong. It was something that was definitely wrong and should not have happened. But no-one knew at the time. My own opinion is that, yes, it should be cleaned up.

Mr RICHARDSON — Just a quick one, Ken. You mentioned the Joy report. Your time at Fiskville is very important for that period. Do you have any inkling why the Joy report only went from 1971 through to 1999 — that arbitrary cut-off? And in framing that and thinking about that, by 1999 were safety procedures at a level that you were confident at that level when you exited in 1999?

Mr LEE — That is a pretty hard question actually, that one. I do not know why the Rob Joy cut-off point was — did not have a clue at all about that. As far as what they — I have lost a bit, sorry.

Mr RICHARDSON — Just to that point, because that is always a question asked — why was there that arbitrary cut-off of 1999 when procedures continued? — and we have recently had the CFA determine to close, based on safety issues: by that time when you have exited, some of the procedures, were they up to a level that you think was satisfactory?

Mr LEE — Nowhere near, no, definitely not. They had improved. As I said, I was sort of carrying the drums and tipping them into an open pit with nothing on my hands, nothing, just tipping the chemicals in — throwing them, actually — and from that point they gradually increased how everything was. But they were still going into the smoke, teaching five-man fog attack, where the firefighters go right into the smoke and disappear from view, from everyone. No-one can see them whatsoever, they are that enclosed in smoke, and no breathing apparatus. That is gung-ho, I know, and a firefighter has got to have a little bit of protection. I do not think at that stage they did have that sort of protection. I do not know whether that answers your question.

Mr RICHARDSON — It does, yes.

Mr LEE — But it certainly was not a cut-off point where they were right. They were getting better. The whole thing was getting better right from the day I started there sort of thing, but it has taken a long time — 20 years.

Mr RAMSAY — Mr Lee, I just wanted to perhaps expand on that because my initial question to you was that Fiskville was trying to create a real-life situation for firefighters where they get the training that will require them to be able to fight a fire in a real-life circumstance. Were the safety precautions given to firefighters, say, at the training at Fiskville using unknown chemicals different to a real-life experience of going to a fire where you know there have been petrochemicals or other noxious chemicals used? Was the breathing apparatus provided to you when you went and fought fires in the 1980s and 1990s different to what you were training with? I am trying to understand in my mind that you are training with certain equipment yet you are asked to go and fight fires with certain equipment. What is the difference in that particular period of time?

Mr LEE — Fiskville was usually ahead in the way of breathing apparatus and things like that, but at stations you might have five men on a fire truck and two breathing apparatus in the fire truck. That sort of thing was in the early days. Now when the fire truck goes out every person would have breathing apparatus. The levels at Fiskville were similar to there. When they brought in a positive breathing apparatus, which was just an upgrade, they went into Fiskville, they were used there in training, before they went out onto fire stations. So Fiskville actually saw the upgrade of a lot of things. Some of the foams and that that we used to put out fires were actually used at Fiskville for a long, long time before they went out on the stations. New fire trucks, before they went out onto stations, were tested there, so they were all on the level. They talk about that five-man fog attack: they did the five-man fog attack into that smoke, and they did it on real fires as well.

Mr RAMSAY — The question I was trying to get out was: would it be fair to say that firefighters were exposed to the similar chemicals with similar safety apparatus in the real fireground as they were at Fiskville? For yourself, who went to fight fires, you would be exposed, potentially, without any sort of similar warnings in relation to that activity as against the training activity that you did at Fiskville?

Mr LEE — I do not think I am really qualified to answer that question. I cannot say whether Fiskville was better than out in the fire station or that. We had the same sort of equipment, and it is up to the instructor what

he was instructing. I was there to light the fires, if you can understand. I lit the fires and then the instructor taught the firefighters how to go in and put this fire out.

Ms WARD — I was quite amazed at your recollection of cleaning out the pits with a scraper once a year. Do you remember at what point it became known or became said that you had to start wearing gloves and then that you had to start wearing the protective clothing? I am also very interested in this idea of farmers coming and picking up the materials and then ploughing them back into the soil. Whereabouts did they do that?

Mr LEE — The actual farm next to Fiskville was owned by Maurice Conlan, who was one of the staff that worked on the property. He used to hire out his scraper and just come in, scrape the chemicals out, and then he would go back and get his harrows and go through it, and then the plough, and plough it up and clean it up, and that left a large firebreak between our property and his place.

Ms WARD — This happened for many years, where the chemicals were getting put into the soil there?

Mr LEE — Yes. He did that for — how many years I would not like to say. It was before my time even and right up until the 1980s, anyway.

Ms WARD — Possibly for up to 20 years?

Mr LEE — Yes. It was common practice for many years.

Mr RICHARDSON — Finally, Ken, you said that you had an interview with Professor Joy as part of that inquiry?

Mr LEE — Yes.

Mr RICHARDSON — Would you be happy to make that transcript available to the committee?

Mr LEE — I have got it here actually, and it is available for the committee. It is 245 pages, I think, or about 4 hours of interview. I spent quite a bit of time with him on maps and that, and marked out as best I could where the ground was contaminated and where stuff was ploughed in, where I felt the drums had been buried over that 20 years, because there was quite a number of different spots around the place, and then I went down to Fiskville and we actually walked through where I thought everything was. It is all in that report. There is no problem with releasing that.

Mr RICHARDSON — Thanks, Ken.

The CHAIR — That is great if we could have that information as well; it would be very valuable for the committee. Thank you. I am really pleased that you were able to come in and talk to us today and provide so much information. Thank you for coming all the way down here.

Mr LEE — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.