

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

Ms Margaret Williamson.

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

Ms WILLIAMSON — My name is Margaret Williamson. My address is [REDACTED]. I represent the Coal Seam Gas Free Kongwak community, which is 605 people who signed that they were against coal seam gas in our area. That is 605 people out of 610 people we surveyed in our town and our surrounding areas. We are dairy farmers, meat farmers, wine growers, poultry farmers or cattle agistors. There are representatives from nearly all of that.

Our concerns are, and I will go through these really quickly: the impact on surface water and groundwater; methane into the atmosphere; impact on agriculture and horticulture; food security; tourism; the volume of heavy trucks on our inadequate roads; the value of our land; but, most importantly, our children's future. Many of our neighbours are fourth generation farmers. They deserve to be able to pass their farms on to their children. We are informed, and informed well, by reporting from Queensland, the northern rivers of New South Wales, the US, the UK and from independent scientists and economists, and we would rather the state's resources be put into alternative sustainable forms of energy. Thank you.

The CHAIR — Thank you, well done.

Witness withdrew.