

TRANSCRIPT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

Torquay — 12 August 2015

Members

Mr David Davis — Chair

Ms Harriet Shing — Deputy Chair

Ms Melina Bath

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Mr Shaun Leane

Mr Adem Somyurek

Mr Daniel Young

Participating Members

Mr Jeff Bourman

Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr James Purcell

Mr Simon Ramsay

Staff

Secretary: Mr Keir Delaney

Research assistants: Ms Annemarie Burt and Ms Kim Martinow

Witness

Ms Chris Johnson.

Ms JOHNSON — My name is Chris Johnson. I am from Queenscliff. I live outside the current permit application area. Thank you for this opportunity at such short notice. My concern comes out of the Barwon Water comments and it is that if there was contamination as a result of unconventional gas going ahead, the public would bear the cost of any remedial works or restitution.

My impression from the person from Barwon Water was that this probably was not possible, that alternative sources of water would have to be found and that the community would bear the cost of that. What is presenting here is not only that the evidence is not sufficient to justify it but that the community and not the mining companies will bear the cost of any negative consequences. It presents as all care and no responsibility. What sort of insurance would cover that? Is it feasible to make a company have some sort of environmental insurance so that if contamination occurred they bore the cost? I do not think you could ever have enough money to recover the damage done. Thank you.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.