

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 Lorraine Halabarec.

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

Ms HALABAREC — Thank you for listening to me. I am Lorraine Halabarec. I live in Mirboo North, and I have a business in Leongatha. My home address is [REDACTED], and my business address is [REDACTED]. My daughter and I have a florist shop, which depends on water for the growing of flowers.

Richard, you said today that you do not know much about the gas fields and the industry. Country people know a lot about the encroachment on people's land of big developers in Melbourne and everything like that. Country people are trying to let town people know that our land is being encroached on by these multinationals as well.

The CHAIR — To be absolutely fair, we are here to listen.

Ms HALABAREC — Sorry. That is one comment. The other thing that concerns me is that today there has not been any talk about who is going to pay for the infrastructure, for all the roads, should the mining go ahead. As many people have said today, South Gippsland is a very rural area, and our business and many other businesses in Leongatha rely on the farmers. While the drought was on some of the businesses had hard times, and a lot of the businesses are having a hard time now. When the desal went ahead many small businesses lost employees. A lot of those businesses will not take those employees back because they are scared that the people will head off again to the mining companies because of the big money.

The other thing is that nothing has been said about our roads. What about our kids? What about the young kids who travel on buses around Gippsland? The roads are pretty poor around the area. We do a lot of deliveries out to farms and around and at the moment we are very hesitant to let some of our employees travel on the roads because we consider them to be a health hazard. We are not prepared to let them travel on them.

What about our kids? Nothing has been said today about the future of our kids and what we are going to leave them. I am a mother and a grandmother. One of my girls said, 'What is the use of having kids?', because they do not see a future at the moment. For them to say that you have to wonder, 'Is our government really looking after our kids into the future?'. That is about all I have to say.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.