

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 Marg Thomas.

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

Ms THOMAS — I will be really brief. I am Marg Thomas, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am a representative of Coal and CSG Free Mirboo North. We have had lots of eloquent speakers here, and I think the big thing I would like to impress on the committee is that in Mirboo North we have a very upset community. Not only do we have coal seam gas licences but we also have recently found out that a mining company has been granted a coal exploration licence over our area, so we have an upset community.

Ms SHING — Renewals, you mean — the renewed licences?

Ms THOMAS — It is an exploration licence that has been granted.

Ms SHING — Renewed, yes.

Ms THOMAS — To Mantle Mining. So we are dealing with two issues, plus we are having the seismic surveys. The difficulty we have found is comforting, I suppose, the residents of the area, so much so that we set up a community information centre so that people can come and talk to us about the problems they are having. But it is really difficult, and I would just like the committee to know how difficult it is. We really need to look after these people. That is all. Thank you.

Mr DALLA-RIVA — In terms of the community information centre that you have set up, are you able to provide the committee with what you are providing to the community and just outline briefly why you have created this?

Ms THOMAS — Okay. With all of these things happening simultaneously — as I said, the people were really upset — we give them information as in hand out leaflets. We provide information on how to make submissions to this committee, also how to send objection letters, things of that nature. We provide a lot of information for them which is not normally available to them.

Mr DALLA-RIVA — Could you provide that to Keir, please? I would like to see it.

Ms THOMAS — Sure. Thank you.

Witness withdrew.