

# TRANSCRIPT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

### Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

Hamilton — 23 September 2015

#### Members

Mr David Davis — Chair

Ms Samantha Dunn

Ms Harriet Shing — Deputy Chair

Mr Shaun Leane

Ms Melina Bath

Mr Adem Somyurek

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 assistants: Ms Annemarie Burt and Ms Kim Martinow

#### Witness

Ms Helen Henry.

**Ms HENRY** — My name is Helen Henry. I have come here today as a representative — —

**The CHAIR** — From where?

**Ms HENRY** — Hamilton. I run a sizeable hydraulic engineering company in Hamilton. I am a small business owner. We turn over \$1 million-plus a year. We employ roughly 10 people. I have been practising my business for about 12 years, and over that time we have seen numerous industries come in. I am not in any way opposed to exploring new industries, but for us, whose core business is well over 50 per cent agriculturally based, I do have a problem with anything that would interrupt that or jeopardise our agricultural economy here in Hamilton.

Yes, we have had a number of businesses come in. We have had Roche Mining that built Iluka. We have had Suzlon and the wind farms. They have injected some profits into our business; however, they have been short term. There is a real risk in business that we get very excited about those short-term profits. However, in the last 12 years it has been agriculture through the global economic crisis that has certainly sustained my family and my employees' families.

From a business point of view — and I have had many conversations because I am one of the people who have also walked around and talked to other businesspeople about their opinions on this matter — I would like to say that as a businessperson I support farmers. I support anything, any action, that helps preserve what is a great, solid and sustainable industry in this area.

**The CHAIR** — Thank you.

**Witness withdrew.**