

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

Mr John Graham.

Mr GRAHAM — My name is John Graham. I am an ex-agricultural scientist in animal production and greenhouse gas emissions. I would just like to see the committee give their considered opinion or considered approach to ‘rehabilitation at the end of life’ legislation, should this abhorrent system go ahead, because there needs to do be an end-of-life rehabilitation of land. Gas companies cannot just walk away. We need to look at the insurance beyond the life of the well because gas companies could walk away and someone will be left with a can should something appear. There should be general emission studies — background studies. We have heard of supposed emission factors coming out after the wells have been dug, but we have no background studies on the current emission factors from gases and methane arising now in the area.

Water use — millions of litres are needed for these fracking wells. We heard Mecrus say that there is no by-product, and they were going to use saline water deep within the aquifer. What do we do with the saline water that is left after this fracking? Our aquifers are currently under stress, so how can we allow the usage of water when they are currently under stress? We have domestic houses in South Australia where, when the irrigation comes on, the water drops below their pump line because they cannot access it. That is how stressed our aquifers are. This is only going to add stress to our aquifers.

Witness withdrew.