

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

Mr Rodger Davis.

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

Mr R. DAVIS — I am Rodger Davis, [REDACTED]. I am a farmer. The first part that I would like to raise is when coal seam gas first started I rang the MLA — Meat and Livestock Australia. The answer I got was, ‘Don’t know’. Then I sent emails. I never got a reply. So I came to two conclusions: one, they did not know; two, they were muzzled by the government. The second part is what came up last Wednesday: pollution in the ground, Fiskville. Properties adjoining the CFA training complex are now quarantined, their animals are poisoned, what do we do with them?

Gas, as far as I was led to believe, is not for Victoria; it is for overseas. How long will it last? And when it is depleted, what will be left? Contaminated land, water and all our foods. Then what will we do? We will have to import from China. I will give an example: Patties Foods. In terms of the waterways, I have a river at the bottom of our place, and we have platypuses in it. It is going to be great when they all die, fish die, crayfish die.

My suggestion to the coal seam gas people is, first off, start exploring Treasury Gardens, the Shrine of Remembrance, the Botanic Gardens, the MCG and Toorak, and see how the people of Melbourne will carry on like we are carrying on. We do not want it, and I am bloody sure they will not want it.

As it was mentioned, asbestos. We used it for years and years and years; now it is totally banned. Thalidomide — they did not know anything about that, and look what happened to that. With the member, I forget her name, who asked the question to the shire councillors what affiliation did they have with businesses?

Ms HARTLAND — Colleen.

Mr DAVIS — I am going to ask the opposite: do the government members have any affiliation with coal seam gas? You would not want to ask Peter Reith, because he would say yes. Was that a fair question?

The CHAIR — They are all fair questions.

Ms SHING — It is rhetorical I think at this stage in your contribution.

Mr DAVIS — Finally, on *Four Corners* last night we saw we have politicians good and bad. By hell they raised it last night! Finally, my terminology for coal seam gas is short-term gain, long-term pain.

The CHAIR — Thank you, Sir.

Witness withdrew.