

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 Rosemary Maher.

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

Ms MAHER — I am Rosemary Maher. I am a farmer from Meerlieu. My address is [REDACTED]. I wanted to raise the issue of energy use. There have been a number of points raised today where there has been an implication that coal seam gas — unconventional gas — will be a viable option for an energy source into the future and it will be a benefit.

I am a farmer. I am not represented by Alex. I come from a farming community where 98 per cent of the residents have said that they do not want coal seam gas. Then more broadly than that, on our farm we have invested substantial capital and infrastructure so that we are not dependent on external sources of energy. A new dairy farm has been built 5 kilometres from us. They have built that dairy so that they are not dependent on external energy. There are heaps and heaps of other agricultural practices that have already invested substantial capital so that they are not dependent on our current gas.

There was a very interesting article in the *Age* about the gas market and the fact that there is really no formal gas market operating. It is still flexible, movable, it is managed by entrepreneurs and it has seemed that who has the biggest pull pushes the market. At the moment with overseas prices, having any extra gas coming into the market, regardless of what form it is, is not going to benefit our communities or Australians at the door when they buy their gas. Thank you.

Witness withdrew.

The CHAIR — I thank the people who have been here through the whole day. It has been a very enlightening day for all the members of the committee. There is obviously further to go tomorrow and much more around the state. Thank you also to the staff. We will reconvene tomorrow.

Ms HARTLAND — And especially Hansard.

The CHAIR — And Hansard too.

Committee adjourned.