

TRANSCRIPT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

Hamilton — 23 September 2015

Members

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Ms Harriet Shing — Deputy Chair

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Mr Richard Dalla-Riva

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Mr Jeff Bourman

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Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr Simon Ramsay

Staff

Secretary: Mr Keir Delaney

Research assistants: Ms Annemarie Burt and Ms Kim Martinow

Witness

Ms Hayley Rundell.

Ms RUNDELL — Hello. My name is Hayley Rundell. I am from Portland, and I am a mum. I have been racking my brain as to what statistics or reports I could quote to you all to make you see through the spin associated with this industry. I am sure it has all been said before. If the government of Victoria has not already made up its mind on this issue, there is only one true and just decision or conclusion that could be made after completely studying all the evidence put before you all — that is, that the risks of this industry far outweigh any potential benefits it may bring to Victoria.

As to the argument that the community is ill informed on this issue, I reject that and take offence to it completely. I have studied both industry information and the effects of high-volume horizontal fracturing on the community here, in Queensland and in the USA. The evidence is clear. The horse has bolted. The devastating effects of this industry are just going to keep on flowing in. Rural people have no reason or agenda to reject unconventional oil or gas extraction other than the very real dangers it brings to their community and their tranquil way of life.

APPEA on the other hand are the paid mouthpiece for the gas petroleum industry that represents 70 very lucrative companies around the world and Australia. They are on record as saying — I spoke to the spokesperson out at Lakes Oil today — that there has yet to be one proven case of water contamination worldwide due to high-volume horizontal fracturing. This is a lie. I have seen the legal documentation from Pennsylvania. I have sent you all the documents, and there are possibly 231 documented accounts — court records — to prove this to be a lie. They now live on water shipped in by the gas companies — until they decide not to give it to them.

I would just like to also say that I have spoken to Rob Annells over the phone. I have not got this on record, because you do not record people's conversation, but he said to me he personally has no trouble with hydraulic fracturing and cannot see the big deal that people make about it.

The choice is yours. The ramifications are ours. These decisions will be felt for generations to come if you make the wrong decision. Thank you.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.