

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 Kerrin Schelfhout.

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

Ms SCHELFHOUT — I am Kerrin Schelfhout of [REDACTED]. I am a representative from the Seaspray community. We have a community group down there, Gasfield Free Seaspray. We have been living this nightmare — not to put too light a word on it, a nightmare — for the past three years since we have become aware of what was actually happening in our community. Lakes Oil has quite a few wells in our area. They have been fracked 10 years ago. This all happened before there was a lot of community awareness as to what was happening. We have been living under the threat of the advancement and the possibility that there might be hundreds of wells in our area. To say that Lakes Oil are bad neighbours is an understatement. They keep us uninformed, they keep us under threat of what they are actually doing. They do not communicate with us. We ring them and we get conflicting stories all the time. The Wombat 1 well is within 100 metres of our town water supply. That has flooded since that well was originally fracked, and we do not know what has happened to any of the toxic water that came out of those wells. We cannot get a straight answer on that. We were told there was none. We have video evidence on one of their promotional videos of them actually with their hands in the produce water.

I really want the committee to be aware of the human impact of this. We have lived and breathed this for the past three years. We have informed ourselves, we have educated ourselves. If anyone could say to us there is no risk to our community, our health, our water and our future generations, we would heave a big sigh of relief and take a holiday, because we are exhausted from fighting this. Thank you.

Ms HARTLAND — Kerrin, you are referring to the Wombat sites?

Ms SCHELFHOUT — Yes, to the Wombat — —

Ms HARTLAND — How far is that from the primary school?

Ms SCHELFHOUT — A kilometre — yes. Easily seen from the primary school, just off the banks of Merriman Creek where the town draws its water. That is part of the massive proposed Wombat field.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.