

# TRANSCRIPT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

### Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

Torquay — 12 August 2015

#### Members

Mr David Davis — Chair

Ms Harriet Shing — Deputy Chair

Ms Melina Bath

Mr Richard Dalla-Riva

Ms Samantha Dunn

Mr Shaun Leane

Mr Adem Somyurek

Mr Daniel Young

#### Participating Members

Mr Jeff Bourman

Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr James Purcell

Mr Simon Ramsay

#### Staff

Secretary: Mr Keir Delaney

Research assistants: Ms Annemarie Burt and Ms Kim Martinow

#### Witness

Ms Suzanne Yandle.

**Ms YANDLE** — Good afternoon. My name is Suzanne Yandle, and I am from Portland, Victoria, where we are currently undergoing unconventional gas extraction, or we are supposed to be. I would like to know how much evidence you need. Do you want to see somebody actually die before you understand what is going on? The government authorities in the US have linked fracking to contamination of groundwater, a high incidence of earthquakes, and gas migration into water bores and wells.

The National Water Commission says unconventional gas mining risks have significant long-term and adverse impacts. That is on water resources, including depletion and contamination of ground and surface water systems. Studies have proven that significant water levels have dropped on farms adjoining unconventional gas operations.

Mr Campbell Newman, the former Premier of Queensland, who made \$4 billion out of gas fracking, said he would state, 'Do not put it in any other states at all, because it is irreparable'.

I recently interviewed a lady from Texas, USA. She said that the depletion of the ground is complete, the degradation has gone, there is no going back — the noise level — and the community damage is irreparable. Land values go down and everything suffers, from the agriculture to the air and the water.

At the moment in Portland of course the rain aquifers go right through to South Australia. Once that land and the water is poisoned, we are out of commission; we are finished. They present you with bottled water when the gas mines move in. That is what they give you to live on. How much evidence do you really need before you say no?

**The CHAIR** — Thank you for your submission. The document you are quoting from there, can you give the details of that to the secretariat?

**Ms YANDLE** — Yes.

**The CHAIR** — That would be great. Thank you very much.

**Witness withdrew.**