

**ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND  
CONSERVATION'S MANAGEMENT OF FORMER PASTORAL LEASES**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE TAKEN  
AT PERTH  
MONDAY, 10 MAY 2010**

**SESSION TWO**

**Members**

**Dr M.D. Nahan (Chairman)**  
**Mr W.J. Johnston (Deputy Chairman)**  
**Mr M.P. Murray**  
**Mrs L.M. Harvey**  
**Mr J.E. McGrath**

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**Hearing commenced at 1.16 pm**

**MUECKE, MS PENELOPE ISABEL**

**Lawyer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation,  
examined:**

**CREEMERS, MS BROOKE**

**Lawyer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation,  
examined:**

**The CHAIRMAN:** On behalf of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, I would like to thank you for your interest and your appearance today. The purpose of this hearing is to assist the committee in gathering evidence for its inquiry into the Department of Environment and Conservation's management of former pastoral leases. You have been provided with a copy of the committee's specific terms of reference. The Economics and Industry Standing Committee is a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. This hearing is a formal procedure of Parliament and therefore commands the same respect given to the proceedings in the house itself. Even though the committee is not asking witnesses to provide evidence on oath or affirmation, it is important that you understand that any deliberate misleading of the committee may be regarded as a contempt of Parliament. This is a public hearing and Hansard is here and will be making a transcript of the proceedings for the public record. If you refer to any documents during your evidence, it would assist Hansard if you could provide the full title for the record. Before we proceed to the questions we have, I need to ask you a series of questions. Have you completed the "Details of Witness" form?

**The Witnesses:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you understand the notes at the bottom of the form about giving evidence to a parliamentary committee?

**The Witnesses:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did you receive and read the information for witnesses briefing sheet provided with the "Details of Witness" form today?

**The Witnesses:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you have any questions in relation to being a witness today?

**The Witnesses:** No.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Would you please state your full name and the capacity in which you appear before the committee today?

**Ms Muecke:** I am Penelope Muecke. I work for the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation as a lawyer.

**Ms Creemers:** I am Brooke Creemers. I also work for the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation as a claim lawyer for Gnulli and Hutt River.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your submission to this inquiry. Together with the information you provide today, your submission will provide part of the evidence to this inquiry and it may be made public. Are there any amendments that you would like to make to your submission?

**Ms Muecke:** No, not at this stage.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We have a series of questions to ask you today, but before we do, do you want to make an opening statement or provide any additional information to your submission?

**Ms Muecke:** Yes. We would just like to firstly apologise to the committee for Mr Baron's non-appearance. We had hoped he would be able to be present but, apparently, he has been unable to attend, and so Brooke and I are here instead. We also feel that we probably have only very general comments to make, but, because we have not done a survey on some of the issues among our clients, we just have some things that we have picked up or heard our clients say. Both of us work specifically on specific claims. Brooke said she works for Gnulli and Hutt River, and I work for the Kurama and Mathudunera and the Jururru people, who are in the Pilbara area. Brooke's claims are in the Yamatji area. Both those areas are areas for which the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation is the recognised representative body under the Native Title Act.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Could you describe your corporation's interest in these pastoral leases? Does it have interests in the pastoral leases or does it own any pastoral leases; and, if it has claims over DEC's former pastoral leases, which ones are they?

**Ms Muecke:** In the Pilbara area, of course, most Aboriginal claims cover pastoral leases, so the pastoral industry and what is happening in it is usually of great interest to our clients. Just before I go on, some of this may possibly get to the stage at which it is confidential information. I would just like to raise that in case we decide that we would rather it not go on the public record.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Again, our terms of reference are the DEC's pastoral leases.

**Ms Muecke:** Yes. I work for a claim group that has one of the properties purchased by DEC in it. It is one of the group of properties that has not yet been declared by Parliament. When all these bits of pastoral leases or whole pastoral leases were purchased, I was given to understand that they were put in two batches. Batch 1 was declared by cabinet, I think, in 2007, if I am right about that. There is a second batch that still has not been declared. That particular one is called the Wanna reserve, which at the moment is parked as unallocated crown land but is being managed by DEC, I understand, prior to it being declared or some decision being made about what is going to happen to it. That is an area that is of very great interest to my clients. That particular area was purchased from old Wanna station. It is extensive gorge country and is full of permanent pools. It has been purchased by DEC because it still has quite a high degree of intact ecosystems within it, including, for example, the threatened olive green python, which grows to about four metres and can swallow a small kangaroo. It is habitat that would be easy to disturb. It has gone from most other places except there. There are a couple of other species that are on the endangered species list, such as small marsupials. Part of the reason that those animals survive in there is that the gorges that run in the Kenneth and Godfrey Ranges are impossible to get into except by helicopter or unless you walk in at either end. They have been relatively undisturbed by pastoral activity. Before contact, the Jururru people used to move to that area in times of drought because of the permanent waterholes, and all the other animals would go there as well, so they obviously had a continual food and water supply. There are some giant engravings on rocks on the faces of the gorges. What I am saying is that the isolation that has made them worth DEC acquiring them to protect the habitat has also protected the Aboriginal history within those areas.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do your clients help manage any of the DEC lands under their areas?

**Ms Muecke:** No, mine do not.

**Ms Creemers:** To answer your first question and then your subsequent question, YMAC individually does not have a specific interest, but our claimants, as native title claimants and as traditional owners over the country, also have an interest. The Gnulli claim group has individual members or traditional owners within the claim group that have an involvement with DEC in managing or being consulted about the management of the Kennedy Range and also the Ningaloo

area that has been set aside. The degree of consultation has varied and I have some information from them that they would like to provide to you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** How are you going to provide that?

**Ms Creemers:** Basically, I have spoken to a number of members of the working group who were elected by the wider community. They have said to me that there is a particular lady who works quite closely with DEC in relation to the Kennedy Range. Her comments have been that DEC does consult with the traditional owners about stuff that is going on in the reserves or parks; however, depending on the people who are on the ground, that consultation varies in relation to the Ningaloo area. Paul Baron, who was going to attend this morning, is also someone whom they consult with quite regularly about that. He said that although DEC has a very positive attitude towards consulting with the claimants and endeavours to do so, the difficulty has been getting the wider views of the community simply because of funding issues and the ability to come through the native title process with that.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** What was the consultation process before those pastoral leases were taken over by DEC? Was there any at all?

**Ms Creemers:** Not to the best of my knowledge.

**Ms Muecke:** Nor to the best of my knowledge.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** So, since DEC has taken over those leases, the rules have changed, according to the Indigenous people. Can you just explain why the Indigenous people are now interested in these areas that obviously were not affected—the ones that you talked about—when they were a privately owned pastoral lease? What has changed for the Indigenous people of those areas to suddenly become involved, given that DEC is saying that it is going to let the leases be as natural as possible anyway and let the environment go back to what it used to be like?

**Ms Creemers:** Perhaps I could answer that in relation to the Kennedy Range area. I know some leases have been purchased there. Previously, the claimants still went out there as native title claimants and accessed the land, not with consultation with the pastoralists; they just went there, called ahead and cared for the country in that kind of manner. With DEC, their relationship has been more involved and it wants to bring them on board in the management of that country specifically and for any tourism or those types of things that are restricting access for other people. They want to be involved in that so that they can still access their country in the way that they traditionally would and protect their country in the way that they traditionally would. They are concerned about any kind of legislation or rules that might impede that. They want to have active involvement in managing that land.

**Ms Muecke:** My clients, the Jururru people, would be much the same. I think that the interest of my clients has come from the realisation that there is now a possibility that they will be allowed to be involved. Previously, even DEC consultation was very ad hoc across a whole range of the state, depending on, as Brooke said, the DEC people on the ground—whether they went out of their way to do it or they did not. It is still very varied on the ground, depending on which DEC office runs the reserve. There are some managed out of Geraldton and there are some managed out of other places up there. It depends a little on that. I have found that often the Perth office does not really know what, say, the Geraldton office is doing. I had a case before the tribunal in which there was a question of an illegal road that was built right through the Wanna reserve by a mining company. I approached the DEC office in Perth, which was horrified, and they said that they would not have allowed it. When the evidence came in, it turned out that the Geraldton office had given permission for it to go through without any consultation with the native title group at all. As I say, there seems to be some problems with actual coordination within DEC itself.

[1.30 pm]

As Brooke said, the other claim group I work for the Kurama Marthudunera people, who go right to the coast. The section of DEC that was running the research into extending the marine reserves from 80-mile beach pretty well down to Onslow was run by a couple of younger DEC people—two young men—who were fantastic. They knew exactly where the claim groups were; they knew exactly which area each claim group covered. There were eight claim groups right the way down. They consulted with them all. They want to go into a second round of consultation. I think they are still waiting for this government to decide what its policy will be about that matter. Those particular DEC people had very little funding to do that. As an organisation, we had to support them with some of our own funding by tacking it on to the back of our other meetings and things so that we could do that for our groups.

DEC's approach about involvement of Aboriginal people is fairly ad hoc. There is a big distinction to be drawn between native title claimants and traditional owners. At the moment we are still at the stage where a lot of these native title claimants have not been determined to exist. Even if they are not found to hold native title, the bar under the Native Title Act is set so high that it is not easy to prove at this distance from contact all the things that are required to prove you are the right people from the right ancestors et cetera. Even if they do not get it, those people will still be traditional owners for their country. There is a need to talk to both sorts of groups within DEC. Often DEC will talk to some traditional owners and not, for example—obviously Brooke's group, Gnulli is a southern neighbour of Jurruru, just over the boarder in Yamatji. They tend to talk to Gnulli people. But perhaps because they think they end at that boundary between what we call Pilbara and Yamatji, they do not talk to the Jurruru people about land in the Pilbara area that they also run out of the Geraldton office. There is a sense, I think, that DEC is not terribly well organised in its approach to Aboriginal people.

The Kurama Marthudunera people do not much like DEC at all. They do not want to talk to DEC because they feel DEC will take away their native title rights and they are quite suspicious of DEC.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** How would you describe your involvement of traditional owners with DEC in managing these four pastoral leases?

**Ms Creemers:** I have recently been contacted by DEC. It is discussing with us the best way forward in regards to management. One thing we have been putting across on the table is an Indigenous land-use agreement. We have suggested that type of agreement so that we can put stuff in that involves meaningful involvement for the traditional owners and how that would operate. It is something that the traditional owners and native title groups are interested in because it would go beyond native title whether they got a determination or not. It would also provide clear guidelines for DEC regarding how they should consult with groups and how they could have meaningful involvement on the ground. As you will notice in the submissions, there is information on rangers and being consulted about Aboriginal heritage sites, going out and looking after the land at a practical level. That is the kind of thing that could be incorporated. That is the way we see progressing this. The issue with it largely has been that, whilst DEC's attitude towards doing this is positive, it has said the same kind of thing we have; namely, funding to consult is often not there. DEC therefore sends us a letter and we send a letter back saying we have concerns and sometimes that is as far as it gets because there is no funding for that kind of meaningful consultation.

**Ms Muecke:** I think too that a lot of this could change once the proposed amendments to the DEC act go through, although at this stage, it is not sure what form they will be in when they are finally passed by Parliament. That could make a lot of difference to how DEC deals with Indigenous people. That is what we are hoping. We have looked at some of the proposed amendments. Council within YMAC has looked at that and we hope some of the better amendments will be passed.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Could you point out management of any particular lease as a model for the way you would like consultation to take place? If the answer is no, that is an answer still.

**Ms Muecke:** Not for me. There may be; I have not studied individual management practices. It may well depend on whether it is a commonwealth or state reserve. The commonwealth tends to have had better co-management arrangements with Indigenous people.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do many of your members work for pastoral leases or have recently worked for them or are hired by DEC to do things such as dogging, maintaining a property with fencing or other things? Is there very much employment in the pastoral industry or in DEC's management or for other purposes?

**Ms Muecke:** The head of the Jurruru has been a station manager. Although he has more or less retired, he is employed as a relief manager. He has spent his entire life trying to stay on his own country. He was handed the mantle by his father. He has made a point of always working as near to or on his traditional country as a pastoral worker. He rose to be overseer and then manager. He is used as relief manager. He has never been employed by DEC to do any of those jobs.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Have other people?

**Ms Muecke:** Not to my knowledge.

**Ms Creemers:** What I have been told by my claimants is not that they have been employed but that they visit the country themselves. If they see things going on out there, they report to DEC and are sometimes then contacted by DEC as a follow up. But they have not actually been employed. That is something they are interested in doing, particularly in relation to the caring of country programs that are available.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Do your members have any views about the conservation of the animals out there or the eradication of pest animals? We have heard reports about the effects of some of the leases that have been taken up by DEC, such as turning off the water, shutting down the mills, kangaroos dying and things like that. Do your people express concern about that?

**Ms Muecke:** Yes; they do. In fact, I was at a meeting only a week ago in Karratha with the Kurama Marthudunera people and it was one of the concerns expressed to me then about animals dying due to water being turned off by DEC.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Can you elaborate on that about what people are saying?

**Ms Muecke:** Only that they were pretty disgusted about it and unhappy that it was happening. Apart from that I cannot contribute.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Were they disgusted because the animals were dying after the water was turned off?

**Ms Muecke:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The purpose of that, of course, is that DEC buys the land and turns it into conservation land. The perception is that the number of standing stock of natives—roos, let us say—is higher than would otherwise naturally be because of the source of water, so they turn off the water. Your client would want that area I assume and there would be fewer roos out there to hunt. Is that a reason for their concern?

**Ms Muecke:** I cannot really answer that. It may be, but I have never talked to them about that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can you ask them about that? That is an issue because DEC's idea is, and is obviously correct, that the standing stock of roos is higher because of man-made water sources. It varies from place to place, but that is the general scene. They say they go in there and many stations would cull a lot of kangaroos to bring the number down.

**Ms Muecke:** DEC also has culling programs in the Wanna area for introduced species. I presume that would also help eradicate species.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Your clients might want a higher standing stock of game, if you wish, than DEC would want because of its conservation perspective. I wondered whether there was a tension there.

**Ms Muecke:** There might well be, but I have not discussed that. I would say that, from what you are saying and from what my clients have said, it is quite obvious then that DEC has not explained its reasoning, because my clients certainly did not indicate they knew there was a reason DEC would have done that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** When DEC buys a property, if it is buying property that impacts on your clients, does it sit down with your clients and say, “Here’s what we’re on about, mate; we want to do this and that and it has potential implications for you”? It has a good neighbour policy and your clients are definitely neighbours.

**Ms Muecke:** My understanding is that the first we knew about DEC purchasing Wanna station, was about 2007 when we received communication from DEC offering to negotiate and perhaps enter an ILYUA with the clients. So far, that has not happened, but that may be because DEC is still waiting to have that area declared. My understanding is that my clients were pretty well unaware of it until after the event.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Many people have commented about the lack of proper communication from DEC, as these people see it. I take it you are clearly part of that side of views that DEC does not communicate appropriately in respect of the management of these places to the extent you know?

**Ms Muecke:** I qualify that because, obviously, in the case of the proposed extension of the marine reserves, that section of DEC went out of its way to do it.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** This is in respect of the former pastoral lease issues.

**Ms Creemers:** My view is that they have attempted to try to engage us. It is actually meeting with the clients to have some meaningful discussions. That is difficult.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I will put a suggestion to you and you can say whether you agree with it: DEC has a great policy, but it does not seem to be implemented on the ground.

**Ms Creemers:** I do not think DEC has funding to implement it.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea for DEC to be taking on these leases?

**Ms Muecke:** From the perspective?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes from the perspective of YMAC and your clients.

**Ms Muecke:** Even my clients understand the need for conservation. Certainly, in the case of the proposed Wanna conservation park, I think they have expressed the fact that a lot of sites in there are very important to them. Their reserve would be that they worry that it will reduce their native title rights and that they will have less access to the area. They can see that, if they are on a co-management structure where they can be employed as rangers or there is a way for them to report activity they feel is wrong, that could actually be positive for them. But if it is just a DEC takeover that does not really involve them or consider their duties as traditional owners to that country, I suspect they will be far less happy about it. I have been instructed by my clients to try to negotiate some sort of co-management with DEC.

[1.45 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** Is that going well?

**Ms Muecke:** We have not yet got DEC to the table. That is possibly because that particular conservation park has not been declared by cabinet yet.

**The CHAIRMAN:** How many of your clients live in and around the pastoral areas?

**Ms Muecke:** My client group is a very small client group. The Jurruru people were decimated somewhere after 1870. The history of that has disappeared. It is not clear whether it was an influenza epidemic or whether many of them ended up being sent to the leprosarium in Derby. The ones who remained have spent much of their younger life on the country. The head man in that group has now retired and moved to Paraburdoo. In Jurruru country there are no town sites or communities; it is mostly pastoral leases. There is very little unallocated crown land. It is all on the Ashburton River and is one of the lushest areas that was taken up in the 1870s as a pastoral lease. They do not actually live on the country. It is unlikely that they ever would be allowed to at this stage, because of it being all pastoral leases and not having an already established Aboriginal community on the area. Their concerns would be more about getting involved in the management of things, such as the DEC reserves, so that they can still maintain a connection to their country and still continue to look after it in a meaningful way that is recognised by the government.

**The CHAIRMAN:** How many are there in the group?

**Ms Muecke:** Probably about 100, with descendants.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did many of their parents work on the pastoral leases?

**Ms Muecke:** Many have done and quite a number now work in Paraburdoo in the mining industry—in Rio Tinto's branch in Paraburdoo.

**\*gree:** The groups I have are quite a bit larger than that. They are probably up to 1 000 people. In relation to the Ningaloo area, while they do not necessarily live out there, the Bunjima people actually own a pastoral lease out there. They are quite involved in that. They are looking at tourist opportunities and being involved in the management of the coast there. They visit the Kennedy Range regularly and while they do not live there they are involved.

**Ms Muecke:** With the Kurama and Mathudunera people, there is a particular station of Galeen, which they have a big association with. I think it is CP Mining that has a lease over that pastoral lease and they are in the process of an excision granting them back the old homestead area. The KM people have an enormous amount of mining activity on their traditional country. Many of them work for the mining industry there.

**The CHAIRMAN:** One of the concerns you would have as DEC buys these properties is that the number of people living on them is diminishing. They might have a caretaker, but there are not too many people in the area. The area is losing a lot of its population.

**Ms Muecke:** I understand that. In the case of the Wanna Reserve, the rest of Wanna Station was been added to Giffard Creek. A station was lost, but one was extended. On that, Jurruru is south of Tom Price in Paraburdoo and it is a fairly isolated area. It is very difficult to access a lot of that country.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** On page 5 of your submission you talk about the potential for some of these places becoming Indigenous protected areas. Can you explain the process for this, including any costs and legislative issues?

**Ms Muecke:** The Indigenous Protected Area program is something that I have been looking at, but I really have not got down to the detail of it. My understanding is that it is associated with the Caring for Country program; therefore, it is a commonwealth initiative. With commonwealth funding, firstly, if a native title group or a group has some sort of tenure on land—I guess, that includes a group that has a determination of native title—they can opt to have some of that land turned into an Indigenous protected area, which will be managed by the state system, I gather, as part of a reserve. The second arm of that program, which, again, I am interested in for the Jurruru people, but have not yet got the detail of how it works and what sort of involvement they still have with it. We have a claim group further in the Pilbara that is currently negotiating with DEC for the



first arm of it; that is, some land that it now has native title to being managed under this Indigenous Protected Area program. The third arm to that is there is money available for groups of Aboriginal people to negotiate a joint management program with DEC over a reserve or a conservation park, whatever level, and that they do not have to be native titleholders. They just need to have the permission of the traditional owners of that area to actually get involved in that. I presume that really what it means is that they are trying to make sure that the traditional owners who live in the area, or other Aboriginal people who might now live in those areas, can get involved in the management of reserves. It is a fairly new program and I do not know anything further about it and how it is working out.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do your clients have concerns about the built heritage being lost in the DEC acquisition of properties—homesteads, buildings and equipment.

\*gree: I think that they do have a bit of concern about it, simply because for a lot of them their families and ancestors grew up in those places and it is a historical connection for them. In that sense, yes they do.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Are their concerns being taken care of by the various heritage assessment processes?

\*gree: As far as the historical homesteads and things like that are concerned, they are not. For our clients it is the traditional sites that are covered under the Aboriginal Heritage Act that are being protected.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will give an example. We drove through a property and one of the current officers pointed out an old house that looked worn out and said that some Aboriginals used to live there. They had asked that person that they not be allowed to live in them but that they are kept going. Is that considered as part of the natural Aboriginal heritage?

**Ms Muecke:** No, a site or an object has to be something that was traditionally used under Aboriginal culture.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thought so. We might have a gap here; that is, buildings that they live in in more modern times that they have memories of, but are now abandoned. They are not physically as flash as homesteads.

\*gree: It also depends on the significance to them. For example, there might be a particular homestead near which there has been a massacre and that might be considered traditional because there are different types of association with it. Whereas if it is just somewhere where people have lived, it might not be so much.

**Ms Muecke:** Certainly your second term of reference—preservation of pastoral heritage—was one of the reasons we felt we should make a submission to you to make sure that the committee understood the huge significance of the whole Aboriginal pastoral scene and how intimately entwined it has been with that whole pastoral heritage.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** In your submission on page 4 you said that it was the YMAC's view that pastoral records and information should be preserved and protected and made available to the POs and their anthropologists upon request. By including that in your submission it suggests to me that that is currently not the practice. Can you clarify that?

\*gree: Currently, if pastoralists hold records, photos or information about different people's families, when we are involved in negotiating Indigenous land use agreements we might ask for them. Some have good relationships with the groups and some do not. They do not always have access to that information. It depends on their relationship.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** From your claimants' perspective, do they feel that they have a better chance of achieving positive outcomes for their groups through this DEC process? If they do, is

there anything we should keep in the front of our mind to make sure that those positive outcomes can occur?

**Ms Muecke:** It varies from group to group. For the Jurruru people there is very little mining on their country. They cannot live on it because there are no towns or Aboriginal communities on it. It is hard for them to get some status on their country. If they get native title, all they get is the name “native title”. For that to be translated into something that is meaningful for them and connects them to their country and allows them to get onto the country and do something would be very important. If they get a determination of native title, they will end up signing agreements with the pastoralists in the area. Most of the agreements they sign, if they get a consent determination, are fairly restrictive. For an Aboriginal group to exercise what is left of their native title rights, they have to give two weeks’ notice and a list of the names of the people who are coming and their movements are restricted—they cannot go onto this or that area. They are the common restrictions that apply. If the Jurruru people could get an agreement or arrangement with DEC that gives them a bit more than that, it would mean everything to them.

\*gree: The general attitude is positive provided they can have some meaningful consultation and can get involved on the ground and it is not a feedback process but actually being involved with managing it.

**Ms Muecke:** It has to be genuine co-management. One of the things that I have heard a lot of Aboriginal people, right down to Nyoongahs in the south west, talk about co-management, but very often it comes down to consultation. It is not real co-management with genuine decision making and genuine involvement with DEC projects.

**The CHAIRMAN:** As there are no further questions, thank you for your evidence before the committee today. A transcript of this hearing will be forwarded to you for correction of minor errors. Any such corrections must be made and the transcript returned within 10 days from the date of the letter attached to the transcript. If the transcript is not returned within this period, it will be deemed to be correct. New material cannot be added via these corrections, and the sense of your evidence cannot be altered. Should you wish to provide additional information or elaborate on particular points, please include a supplementary submission for the committee’s consideration when you return your corrected transcript of evidence. Thank you very much for coming.

**Hearing concluded at 1.59 pm**