



# Manjimup Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc.)

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*Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival*  
Manjimup, Western Australia  
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Committee Secretary  
Senate Economics Committee  
Department of the Senate  
P O Box 6100  
Parliament house  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email to: [economics.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senators

## **INQUIRY INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE GAS EXPLOSION AT VARANUS ISLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

On behalf of the Manjimup community, I wish to provide the Committee with the following information that affected residents of Manjimup flowing on from the gas explosion.

- The fly in fly out mine workers returned home to Manjimup because they had been stood down at the respective mine sites in the north of the state.
- The shortage of gas also affected vineyards around Manjimup because they were unable to source CO<sub>2</sub> gas for their bottling runs. CO<sub>2</sub> is a by-product of fertiliser production. When CSBP down-sized operations at its fertiliser plant, due to the shortage of natural gas, there was a resultant reduction in the production of CO<sub>2</sub>. Manjimup vineyards were unable to buy bottled CO<sub>2</sub> which caused considerable strain on winemaking operations.
- Many farmers in the area were affected because they could not source fertilisers from their main supplier due to reduced production. Fertiliser was required for hay feed paddocks and its application is time critical to the crop. Therefore, farmers had to find alternative sources of supply which resulted in a higher price paid per tonne of fertiliser.
- Manjimup industries as well as farmers were affected by the delays in not being able to procure parts and tools etc because the manufacturers in Perth did not have enough gas supplies to continue normal processing.

Yours sincerely

Rose Moyle  
Manjimup Chamber of Commerce