

MR PRESTON GARDINER  
Director  
PREMIN HOLDINGS  
T/AS Donnybrook Logging Services  
Gardiner Mechanical Services  
61 Collins St  
DONNYBROOK WA 6239

Postal address:  
PO BOX 239 DONNYBROOK 6239  
Telephone: Office 08 97312227  
Fax: 08 97 312229  
Mobile:  
A/Hours  
e/mail .

12 September 2008

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

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

I write to you regarding the local gas crisis and the affect it has had on our revenue and turnover that has dramatically had a serious impact on our income and the stress it has placed on myself, a young family and our employees. It has caused one employee to relocate his wife and children, 2 and 4 years old, to the North West of the state due to a decline in work and hours.

Our company Premin Holdings Pty Ltd has two trading businesses, Donnybrook Logging Services and Gardiner Mechanical. Both businesses work in the plantation pine industry as a sub contract log haulage operator and mechanical repairer on harvesting and transport equipment.

Currently we employ 6 full time employees, 2 casuals, my wife and myself. Before the gas explosion we had 8 full time employees. Regrettably I lost an experienced MC truck driver due to the restricted hours and the uncertainty of our future at present. He had been with our company for 2.5 years since we commenced our Logging operation.

I recently had to put off our operations manager due to a downturn in the maintenance of equipment from the industry.

Before the explosion our log trucks were carting between 1000- 1500 tonne of Pine and Bluegum logs per week. Currently we are carting 500 tonne of Bluegum and no Pine, due to a shortage of gas to run their kilns.

As normal we see a downturn in the industry from May till the end of June of around 25 – 40% in the Pine and by the end of July we are normally up to full swing again. It is now September and I still have a roadtrain combination idle in my yard costing our company \$10 000 per month instead of turning over \$30 000 - \$35000 per month.

As we have been looking at alternative work, the cost to set equipment up is within \$150 000 - \$200 000 and with no guaranteed work that we previously had. "DO I TAKE THE RISK"?

Since the explosion we are losing between \$50000 - \$60000 per month. It is now September and the word from our contactor, Plantation Logging Co, is that it doesn't appear that the sub contractors used to cart the 1500 tonne of Pine will be going back to work until after January or February 2009.

I HAVE CONTEMPLATED SELLING THE TRUCKING BUISNESS. A business I have built from nothing with a hell of a lot of support from my wife Melinda and two children 6 years and 3 years, though to currently find a buyer is impossible.

I CANNOT express the fact that we need immediate help as the FINANCIAL burden is starting to cripple our business and if it doesn't improve I will have no choice but to sell at a price that I will lose the family home as well.

I have spoken to many local and state MPs. They all sympathised with me and told me that supplies were coming through and everything will be back to normal. This was before the State Election. Nothing has changed; they don't even return my phone calls.

There are a lot of other associates that I do business with in the same position. I am over politicians and their statements and no action.

Yours faithfully



PRESTON GARDINER  
Director  
PREMIN HOLDINGS