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Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
P O Box 6100
Parliament house
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Senators

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

I write to provide information to be considered in your inquiry:

- I run a dairy and beef farming operation in Harvey.
- During the period of the gas shortage, I required to purchase fertiliser to spread in my feed-lot paddocks. The spreading of fertiliser was time critical for the crop.
- My usual source of fertiliser supply is Ravensdown Fertiliser, however, I was unable to purchase the required quantity of fertiliser because Ravensdown had reduced its production due to suffering a cut in its gas supply from Alinta.
- I am a long term loyal customer of Ravensdown and the price I pay for fertiliser reflects this loyalty.
- I then had to find an alternative source of supply and was able to procure fertiliser. However I had to pay full market price for the product and did not have any opportunity to negotiate better terms due to the time critical nature of my crop.
- I required to purchase some 35 tonne of fertiliser and the extra expense to me for procuring fertiliser from a different source cost an additional \$10,000 on my budget for this season.

Please take this into consideration when examining the cost to south west industries as a result of the gas shortage.

Yours faithfully

Kim Mairno