

SWAN VALLEY — DAMPIER TO BUNBURY GAS PIPELINE

Statement by Member for West Swan

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [12.53 pm]: I have an issue concerning the expansion of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. I welcome the expansion of the pipeline to meet Western Australia's growing energy needs. However, it is important to ensure that the expansion does not occur at the expense of the livelihoods of landowners affected by the works. My concern relates specifically to a number of vineyards in the Swan Valley that will be impacted on by the expansion of the pipeline. The wine industry is essential to the economy of the Swan Valley and is a major employer in the region. As part of the expansion works, the pipeline operator is planning to cut a large open-cut trench through a number of vineyards in the Swan Valley. If this goes ahead, it will result in the destruction of a number of quality vines, some of which were planted as early as 1945. It will also cause important viticulture infrastructure to be destroyed. This will have a devastating effect on the livelihoods of the affected winegrowers, their families and employees. Alternative routes can be found for expansion of the pipeline without destroying the livelihoods of these people.

I had the opportunity to raise this issue with the Minister for Lands, and I know that he does not want to see the livelihoods of those people destroyed. I have asked the minister to ensure that no further work is undertaken on these properties and that an alternative option be progressed to the proposed open-cut trench.