**Introduction and Final comments - Marilyn Lilley -Oral Presentation on the Gas Amendment Bill B9-2020 - 30 Nov 2021**

1. **Introduction:**

Thank you to the Chairman and Members of the Portfolio Committee for the opportunity to expand on the issues and concerns that I raised in my written submission on the Gas amendment Bill, and for considering this input in your evaluation of the Bill

 I am a member of the public and have followed the fracking applications in the Karoo in 2011 and continue to follow fracking and other gas related projects and activities in South Africa and elsewhere including the various impacts.

Fracking has been banned in many countries.

California is to ban fracking in 2024 and is already cutting back on issuing any new permits.

Have the relevant Committees, Ministers and departments researched the reasons why these countries have banned fracking?

The issues that I cover are easily available to find in the public domain- methane emissions, IPCC Climate Change Report, and health related topics

I include links and **Further Reading** for the Committee for easy access to the information.

Once one hears one cannot unhear.

Once one knows one cannot unknow.

This science and information may be useful also by the Committee in its oversight and monitoring role over the Minister and Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.

We also need to count the costs to the climate and costs to the impacted and affected public, not only the monetary costs. There are already many mining affected communities in South Africa impacted by mining near to where they live.

 With our apparent ‘dash for gas’ in South Africa there are an increasing number of permit applications for various onshore and offshore gas projects developments and the proposed importation of methane - such as the Karpowerships, also the very current seismic surveys off the east coast of South Africa with country wide public protests and national and international coverage, the precursor to offshore oil and gas development, also the mega methane 5,000km gas pipeline network around our country through farming areas and 140 municipalities with multiple industrial sized compressor stations built along its length that vent gas - and that will tie South Africa into decades of fossil fuel production and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Slide Presentation 1-17**

1. **Final Comments after Slide no 17**:

From the current information and science that we have, I believe that South Africa cannot afford to embark on new gas infrastructures and development, as in the Gas Amendment Bill, the purpose of which is to facilitate gas infrastructure development and investment.

I would like to add that of concern from reports apparently it may appear that some people allegedly may not have ben able to enter some of the venues where the Gas Amendment Bill public hearings were recently held, or allegedly maybe were prevented from entering some of these venues. If this may be so will all such people be given an opportunity to take part in the public participation process and have their say on this Bill, their democratic right to be heard?

Thank you.

**Further Reading: Slides 18-22**