



Uniting Church to pressure Woodside over gas plant concerns

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The Uniting Church will not sell off its shares in Woodside Energy, despite having concerns the company is ignoring health and safety issues at its Port Campbell gas plant in south-west Victoria.

The church believes two subcontractors were sacked from the construction site many months ago because they raised safety concerns.

The church's director of social justice for Victoria and Tasmania, Dr Mark Zirnsak, says the church owns a significant shareholding in the company.

He says the matter appears to conflict with its ethical investment policy.

"The church would always review its investments in line with its policy," he said.

"At this stage, though, our position with Woodside is we are keen to try and keep some pressure on the company and we believe that is best achieved at this point through our shareholding with Woodside.

"Once you're out of the company you've lost your influence by and large. So at this stage our belief is we're better off staying in the company and keeping the pressure on."

The ABC has called Woodside for comment.