

Dear Sir /Madam,

I write to you as a resident of the farming district and tourist area near the Bengworden area and Gippsland Lakes to express my concern about the proposed gas Fracking activity in this region.

I am not a farmer but a retired professional engineer who has contributed to the power industry over a period of fifty years in various functions at power station sites in Australia (Victoria, NSW, Queensland, WA) and overseas. My last job concerned a simple cycle gas turbine power plant in WA at Neerabup as the engineering manager. During many of these projects that were built on green field sites the underlying geological strata are always a problem and the movement of these layers once disturbed is not easy to predict, but move they do.

At the Neerabup site for example the installation of an emergency bore for firewater was a serious problem because of its impact on the Perth water aquifer.

Concerning the Unconventional Onshore Gas Mining activities:

There is evidence that some of the companies clamouring for this fracking work have a somewhat nonchalant attitude to geological problems.

I expect you may know of some of the problems experienced with this mining method in Queensland and the United States but likewise in the North of the Netherlands the gas industry is now the reason for damaging earth quakes which never occurred for the previous 2000 years. On the Dutch gas fields fracking was not used but the earth layers moved nevertheless.

The Dutch project management was warned about twenty years ago by an eminent geologist that the dislocation of gas bearing layers would result in earth quakes but was ignored.

Are the benefits of Fracking worth the very likely uncontrollable damage?

The gas fields will be exhausted in a few years with the profits probably going overseas, the current Senate committee is already exposing such practices.

Lakes Oil is not a local company (Gina is the boss) although it might have a small office in Lakes entrance just for show and to give the locals a warm feeling.

This area is a tourist area and is frequented by lots of Melbournians. I would be surprised if they appreciated the destruction of their holiday destination.

Please keep that in mind when you report your findings.

Don't be fooled by some media spin that the majority of people don't mind this fracking is going ahead, most actually do!

Take care and best regards,

Len van Denk

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