

8 July 2015

To The Committee for the Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria and All Others to Whom This Should Concern

Under NO circumstances do I agree to any form of Fracking or investing of such an industry in Geelong or Victoria....The more I learn of this industry, the more this is so blatantly obvious to everyone that it is a very harmful, destructive, dangerous, damaging industry on every level.

There is NO way I & thousands of others around the country who understand how damaging Fracking is, will allow these companies in Victoria....regardless of the approved licences. There will be massive blockades at record levels, I can guarantee it.....numbers are growing, word is spreading, we will go to every house like those in Moriac, Mt Moriac, Freshwater Creek & Paraparap if we have to.

City of Greater Geelong & it's Council (who voted unanimously in 2014 for Fracking to be banned in Victoria) have joined with Surfcoast Council, Barwon Water & Residents to stand for keeping Geelong & Victoria Frack Free, I & many will be informing & undertaking steps to gather evidence regarding current property value, full health checks, water quality with pre testing of methane & chemical levels & water & noise quality....as base line measurement to prepare & prove damages for legal action against Council, the State & Federal Government if necessary.

I am a single mother who was born in Geelong & lived here my whole life. I am appalled that these Fracking companies have ever been allowed to enter our beautiful country & have exploratory licences even granted.....all behind our backs to destroy my property value, health, water & air quality & job prospects.

Every Committee member needs to see the movie Gasland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cutGpoD3inc>

& the movie filmed in Australia Fractured Country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrE7LzZCn1E>

To further summarise the issues specifically I'd like to state known facts:

- Fracking has not been proven safe to either the environment or to those living in it – flora, fauna and people. In fact it cannot be proven to be safe as more health issues immerge in America & now in Australia specifically in Queensland as such needs to be banned from ever being carried out in Victoria. It puts our State government at enormous risk for future losses in water & food security, health issues, job losses & insecurity in the long term & wide open to litigation as is emerging in America now & will start to emerge in Australia very soon.

- Fracking relies on large volumes of heavy trucks and machinery entering and leaving local communities 24/7/365.

- Should any of the trucks carrying highly toxic chemicals become involved in a traffic accident, this could create a toxic spill that will need to be cleaned up.- .Unless the cleanup is 100% effective, the community may be in danger from the remnants of the spill.- .I understand the chemicals being used cause ill health and cancer.

- The industry does not employ locals or bring any benefit to the local economy.

Further, I am stunned we are even having to be made to go through this process of submissions, when our neighbouring state Tasmania did their own investigations & simply decided, long ago to keep the area Frack Free. Why.....because it is a NO BRAINER. There is nothing to gain, only to lose as our number 1 industry in this Region being Tourism, with the Great Ocean Road & Otways being the biggest Tourist destination outside of Melbourne for domestic & international visitors. See stats from Tourism Victoria under what's their main purpose for coming.

<http://www.tourism.vic.gov.au/research/domestic-and-regional-research/domestic-visitation.html>...this demonstrates the enormity of Tourism in our Region & how important it is to us the residents of Geelong as the gateway to the SurfCoast & Great Ocean Road & therefore important to all the residents (our neighbours) in that region also.

Deciding anything other than to keep Geelong & Victoria Frack Free will destroy us economically, socially, agriculturally, affecting health, jobs, food, water levels & quality, air quality, property values etc.

We as a Region, State, Country & Planet need to be ONLY focusing on Sustainable, Renewable, Socially Conscious, Peaceful (not connected to wars & violence), Clean Green business, industry & manufacturing.

On Tuesday 23 Sept 2014 many leaders of the World met to discuss this very issue based on worldwide concern on our values, priorities, plans & goals in this area. Our Prime Minister chose not to go, the world is watching us. We Geelong & Victoria have an opportunity here to be the leaders in Sustainable Renewable Manufacturing etc we are among one of the sunniest countries in the world & are one of the most arid countries in the world. We can not sustain industries raping our land, planet & people of a sustainable life through mining & war any longer.

Mr Di Caprio summed it up perfectly on Tuesday at the UN Climate Summit in New York please watch & really listen to what he is saying:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka6\\_3TJcCkA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka6_3TJcCkA&feature=youtu.be)

Thank you for the opportunity to state my strong views to keep Geelong & Victoria Frack Free permanently & for our region, state & country to focus on Sustainable, Renewable, Clean Green enterprises only.

Lynn Hofmann