

Submission to the Victorian Environment & Planning Committee regarding the State Inquiry into Unconventional Gas.

To whom it may concern,

I am Naima Fine Bsc(Hons), a Victorian citizen, and an ecologist. I am very concerned about unconventional gas mining in Victoria and indeed anywhere in the world. I do not support ANY form of unconventional gas mining, including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification.

Every Victorian community that has conducted a survey about unconventional gas mining in their area has found an overwhelming majority against any such works. Every Victorian community that has conducted a survey has thus removed the social licence for the industry to operate in their area. Interstate, for example in New South Wales, numerous local councils have also voted in and implemented official policies against any such works. No regulations will change my mind, or all of these citizen's and council's minds, about the environmental and social safety of unconventional coal seam gas mining.

Here are just a few of the reasons that unconventional gas mining in Victoria in any form should not be allowed to ever proceed:

- 1) unacceptable environmental, land productivity and public health risks, risk mitigations and residual risks of onshore unconventional gas activities;
- 2) the negative coexistence of onshore unconventional gas activities with existing land and water uses, including —
 - (a) agricultural production and domestic and export market requirements;
 - (b) the legal rights of property owners and the impact on property values;
- 3) carbon dioxide emissions.

Put simply, Victoria and Australia DO NOT NEED and DO NOT WANT more environmentally unsustainable primary industry, particularly for the extraction of yet another unsustainable energy source, which emits carbon dioxide at all stages of extraction and usage.

Victoria and Australia NEED and WANT:

Clean, safe drinking water guaranteed into future generations;

A decisive move towards genuinely long-term environmentally sustainable energy sources;

Local agricultural production and associated rural areas to be safe from mining interests, unpotable water, noise pollution, and health risks.

All types of unconventional gas mining offer NOTHING BUT NEGATIVES to Victorian and Australian citizens.

Victoria must listen to its citizens and its scientists and ban all unconventional gas drilling permanently, immediately.

Sincerely and passionately,

Naima Fine.