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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 8:29 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to Vic Govt Inquiry into unconventional gas

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[Ruth Caluzzi](#)

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I would like to make a submission to the State Government's Inquiry into unconventional gas and onshore mining

This is a subject that I feel very strongly about. My family has had a long association with farming in the West of Victoria since 1839 when they came out from Scotland as shepherds.

On the other side I have been involved in the restaurant trade for the last 30+ years and so have been purchasing goods from this area and so understand how essential it is to have a product that is consistently of top quality and devoid of any contaminants.

Australia used to ride on the sheep's back. We now sell our world class wool to other countries that turn that into yarn and fabric and then sell it back to us! When are we going to learn?

Those days are over and so it is essential that our other domestic AND export markets are protected.

In recent years Australia has been the world's third largest exporter of dairy products after New Zealand and the European Union. Australia's export growth has been largely dependent on being a low cost supplier to the rapidly developing Asian markets that account for three-quarters of all Australian dairy exports. Stronger world demand for dairy products are expected over the next few years as consumer incomes rise. Of particular interest are the opportunities to expand exports to China and through the signing of free trade agreements between Australia and the United States and between Australia and Thailand.

From the Financial Review:-

Brent Moore, Austrade's Trade Commissioner in Shanghai, says China is increasingly becoming a focal point for Australian dairy producers.

"Chinese consumers rate Australian dairy products very highly for quality and safety, " Moore says.

We cannot jeopardise such an important market especially when the most appealing quality for this product is "Quality and Safety"!

Our Dairy heartlands, Gippsland and the Otways are areas that have ample supplies of conventional gas offshore, so why bring it onland?

Australia has lost so many export opportunities - we don't need another one!

New York has banned fracking as reported in inside climate - May 15 2015

<http://www.insideclimateneeds.org/news/15052015/why-did-ny-ban-fracking-official-report-now-public>

New York issued its [long-awaited environmental assessment of fracking](#) Wednesday detailing a wide range of health and climate concerns that underpinned Governor Andrew Cuomo's decision last December to impose a statewide ban on the practice. High-volume hydraulic fracturing "raises new, significant, adverse impacts not studied" in the state's last major analysis of oil and gas development in 1992, the 2,000-page report concludes. The negative effects that fracking could bring to the state include:

— **Air impacts** that could affect respiratory health due to increased levels of particulate matter, diesel exhaust or volatile organic chemicals.

— **Climate change impacts** due to methane and other volatile organic chemical released into the atmosphere.

— **Drinking water impacts** from underground migration of methane and/or fracturing fluid chemicals associated with faulty well construction or seismic activity.

— **Surface spills** potentially resulting in soil, groundwater and surface water contamination.

— **Surface water contamination** resulting from inadequate wastewater treatment.

— **Earthquakes and creation of fissures** induced during the hydraulic fracturing stage.

— **Community impacts** such as increased vehicle traffic, road damage, noise, odor complaints, and increased local demand for housing and medical care.

And in NSW,

The NSW government will buy back and cancel the massive coal seam gas exploration licence.

<http://www.nature.org.au/news/2015/07/government-acknowledges-risks-of-csg-in-water-catchments-by-cancelling-pel-2/>

The government's announcement that it will buy back and cancel the massive coal seam gas exploration licence that covers almost 7000 square kilometres from the Illawarra, through Sydney's water catchment, north to the Central Coast.

Also in Tasmania,

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-26/fracking-banned-for-five-years-by-tasmanian-government/6265378>

And in Texas methane emissions are much higher than estimated

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/08072015/methane-emissions-texas-fracking-region-50-higher-epa-estimates-oil-gas-drilling-barnett-shale-environmental-defense-fund>

And in the UK the gas price plunge has made fracking unprofitable:-

<http://energydesk.greenpeace.org/2015/01/08/gas-price-plunge-made-uk-fracking-unprofitable/>

Whilst in Albania damage has been recorded by a Canadian firm, Bankers Petroleum:-

<http://www.nofrackingway.us/2015/04/12/another-frack-mess-200-evacuated-nearly-70-homes-damaged-in-albania-when-volcanoes-of-gas-mud-chemicals-and-water-erupts-during-drilling/>

Maybe a guarantee fund would need to be established if this were to go ahead to in order to protect the environment and the local communities when things go wrong.

It would appear that there are many reasons that this form of mining is just not worth the risk and they are backed up by many long term studies overseas. This is especially relevant when the use of fossil fuels is declining and renewables are on the increase.

The evidence is already here!

Unconventional Gas mining is not acceptable - to the farmers, to the domestic consumers and to the overseas markets.

Sincerely,

Ruth Caluzzi