

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/article/2657>

Fracking in Victoria, in fact anywhere in Australia, should not even be considered.

It is an insidious, filthy, polluting industry which brings no benefit to anyone but the fracking companies who sell the resulting gas overseas to the highest bidder.

They couldn't care less about the destruction they wreak because they do not live here! Nor do their workers!

There is absolutely no benefit for the average citizen, in fact there is hardship and heartache.

Fracking uses and contaminates huge volumes of water, which we simply haven't got to spare. Recently, Victorians were saving and recycling every drop. It is only a matter of time before we have another drought, which, with fracking, would be far worse than any previously experienced.

The sealing of wells cannot be guaranteed and methane gas and toxic chemicals can escape into rivers and farmland as seen in Queensland and the USA. Most wells eventually leak in this way, if not from the start, then years down the track. If the industry was made to compensate the community for damages then they wouldn't even break even.

It is a totally unnatural methodology which can cause great harm to not only the environment but also humans, crops, homes and aquifers.

The demand for gas has declined in recent years, which makes it unnecessary.

Fracking does not sit comfortably with agriculture – particularly the “clean, green” kind. Expensive organic produce is used by some sufferers of cancer and other auto-immune conditions. They have rights too!

Organic farmers go to enormous lengths and expense to qualify their land, but once contaminated, re-certification may never be possible.

Why would you even consider jeopardising our exports to pander to people who are not even citizens and who do not care what damage they do?

There are no jobs for locals, fracking companies move around their own skilled staff, who may not even be Australian citizens or PR's, but 457 visa holders.

In humans and animals, fracking chemicals are extremely dangerous to brain, endocrinal, reproductive and nervous systems.

There are safe, environmentally friendly, renewable alternatives. Solar and wind power!

Please MPs, instead of allowing desecration of our land put the money into renewables which have the added benefit of job creation!

Paul Kumnick

