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From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Ms Susan Moss
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I have learned about the effects of unconventional gas on the environment, farming, and human health. Unconventional gas drilling puts water, farmland, community health, food security, environment all at risk. On the basis of scientific evidence, Victoria needs a permanent ban on all unconventional gas. Protecting Victoria from fracking and other unconventional gas will protect existing jobs, especially in agriculture and tourism, and give these valuable industries certainty into the future, encouraging investment into these industries and our state.

Farming land and water resources are poisoned by toxic chemicals used in unconventional gas extraction. These chemicals are not possible to contain. More than 90 chemicals are used in fracking, poisoning the land, water, and people with it. Water is so contaminated that it can be set on fire. This water is not fit for farm animals or humans to consume.

Unconventional methods of drilling for gas cannot be safely contained. In the United States of America many watershed basins have contaminated water now due to unconventional gas drilling operations despite safety regulations. Queensland did not learn from these mistakes and is suffering the damage from unconventional gas operations there. Victoria must learn from international and Queensland evidence and not repeat the mistake of believing that unconventional gas drilling is without devastating consequences for farming, food security, water security and community health. Gas treatment plants also create air pollution. Regulations will not contain this poisonous industry.

According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, there is no gas shortage in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia, so there is no need to risk the health of crucial, quality farmland and the health of citizens just to extract gas that we don't actually need.

Victoria needs to transition rapidly to zero net emissions. There is growing evidence of fugitive emissions (ie. leaking) from unconventional gas processes, showing that gas is not as clean as once thought: it is still a dirty fossil fuel. Gas therefore has no place in Victoria's future energy mix. If Victoria is to be considered a leader on climate change, the government cannot allow a new gas industry to be established.

No amount of Victorian gas production will reduce the prices that consumers have to pay. Gas prices have increased because LNG exports from the east coast have linked us to international markets where prices are higher. A Victorian gas industry will not save consumers money. The best solution for consumers to reduce gas bills is through energy efficiency initiatives.

The Victorian Government has a responsibility to the citizens of this state to prohibit all unconventional gas mining operations.

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File1:

File2:

File3: