

[REDACTED]

Sent: Garry Owers [REDACTED]
Thursday, 9 July 2015 10:33 AM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission CSG

Submission Coal Seam Gas (CSG) & fracking

Please ban CSG and fracking from Victoria and support communities and the environment. CSG extracts large quantities of groundwater dropping water tables and producing lakes of contaminated surface water which cannot be safely disposed of. Fracking cracks the coal seam and surrounding rocks allowing fracking fluids to enter and contaminate all aquifers and can travel all the way to the surface. Removing hydraulic pressure from the coal seam causes collapse of the coal seam and surface subsidence which can alter drainage and damage buildings and infrastructure. Add to this the volatile organics released to the atmosphere during mining, compression and processing and it becomes an all out assault on communities and the environment just to improve the profits of overseas companies.

Therefore : -

- 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.
- There's no way that the risks to farming land and our water resources can be safely managed. We saw from the Hazelwood mine fire that regulatory systems can fail, and that failure can lead to environmental and public health disasters. It is not worth the risk.
- 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 farmland just to extract gas that we don't 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, and there is no time for fossil fuels that are just less dirty. 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.
- There are other methods of obtaining gas such as tapping garbage tips and use of sewerage digesters, intercepting this stops its release to the environment.