

[REDACTED]

From: Lou McArthur [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 4 July 2015 3:48 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission re Gas mining

Dear Sir,

I am a farmer on the Red Gum Plains 20 km west of Bairnsdale. We farm 1500 ha, considered one of the larger farms in the area. We also have two dairy farms at Maffra and the operation near Bairnsdale is pivotal in supporting the dairy business.

We rely on clean, reliable underground water for livestock.

- The land is considered prime agricultural country for sheep and cattle and we also grow crops and produce hay to support the farms at Maffra.
- Generally speaking most farms are of a smaller size, closely settled and totally unsuitable to having CSG wells, infrastructures and roads criss-crossing the countryside.
- Runoff from our land goes straight into the Gippsland Lakes and CSG and fracking is a risk we do not need for the lakes system

However, personally I think the issue is bigger than the risks highlighted above.

- Governments of all persuasions have very little regard for the role of agriculture in this country. As long as revenue can be created by mining our underground resources little regard is given to the health and wealth of the farming community.
- Both governments are happy to see land sold to overseas interests.
- Young farmers are unable to buy agricultural land unless their family can help them. Why are we not supporting and encouraging and promoting our own citizens into agriculture?
- Why isn't agriculture talked up proudly by governments. Simply because it is not needed in this country while there is mining.

Act now before it is too late.

- Halt the abuse of our land from risky mining.
- Listen to the people and their concerns. 99% of fellow farmers and residents on the Redgum Plains in our area – Meerlieu, Bengworden, Perry Bridge said NO NO NO to unconventional gas mining– protect our area, protect our water, protect our landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Louise McArthur

Lou McArthur,
[REDACTED]

