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From: Jacinta Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2015 6:06 PM
To: EPC
Subject: No unconventional gas exploration or mining in Victoria please

Dear Mr Delaney,

I write to put my strongly held view that there should not be any exploration of methane gas deposits trapped in coal seams, shale or tight sand. I believe that the controversial practice of 'fracking' is a process fraught with unknown dangers to our waterways and below ground water reserves and assets. There are well cited issues with an increase in seismic activity as well as gas leakage after mining companies have begun accessing underground gas reserves in the USA in Ohio for example. We cannot possibly risk the damage to Victoria that mining the underground gas may well deliver in the short or long term. The risks are too great and the potential consequences are catastrophic and will be irreversible. In addition, there is the disruption to forests and farm land, and the unknown long-term effects of the chemicals used in the fracking process. I grew up in rural Victoria and I understand the delicate balance of our soil water and farming practices. Fracking is a recent practice with minimal or non-existent research into the long-term consequences, the dangers are far too great to 'hope' that all will be Ok.

Please do the best thing for Victoria and keep our land and water clean for our descendants, we will need all the resources that we can manage.

Sincerely

Jacinta Smith and family

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