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**From:** Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 11:04 AM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Ms Kate Shone  
[REDACTED]

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Thank you for the opportunity to relay my concerns regarding unconventional gas mining in the East Gippsland region.

I have resided in East Gippsland for 25 years. I was initially attracted to the pristine lakes, mountains, ocean and wilderness. I worked as a community health nurse at Orbost and District Hospital, also at Cann River Bush Nursing Centre as a relief bush nurse, and at the Omeo and District Hospital. I have also raised a family of four children in the area. I now have an art/landscaping business and own properties in Swan Reach and Metung. With the ever-increasing tourist trade, I plan to invest in opening a gallery/café in the not-too-distant future.

My major concern regards the health and welfare of communities subject to the fracking process in their surrounding areas. Our small communities integrate with the river and lakes systems, hence the common reference to the area as "Lakes and Wilderness". Not only the obvious areas of tourism, farming and fishing, but other businesses benefit indirectly.

Farmers, especially the Lindenow Flats vegetable growers, use the pristine Artesian Basin that lies beneath their region. Apparently there are two huge Artesian reservoirs, one below the other. The upper one is tapped to provide irrigation for their crops. How would gas fracking benefit in any way our local farming practices? From articles I have read, it is my opinion that gas fracking is detrimental in that the chemicals used are toxic and due to the uncertainty of the explosive fissures in the ground they can escape to poison water supplies. The escape of gas via untapped fissures also can poison dams, rivers and lakes. Once poisoned with toxins and gases, the water quality can never recover. Animals, native and farmed, will get sick and die.

I am mostly concerned about the health of people who live in areas where gas fracking is prevalent, where toxins have already escaped (e.g. Chinchilla, Qld). This is particularly bad for small children who have become ill. Not only are their organs not fully formed and therefore not equipped for any type of toxic

exposure, they have a whole lifetime for toxins to accumulate and subsequent issues to manifest. Similarly, the elderly and frail are particularly susceptible to toxicity.

The scary part for me is that fracking has been allowed to continue despite no long-term medical health implications of families. Who wants to be diagnosed with a life-threatening or debilitating illness ten years down the track? That nations such as France have banned this process indicates it is not safely viable.

I cannot stress my opinion strongly enough that for the price of an energy resource that can be otherwise produced safely as solar or windpower, HUMAN WELLNESS is by far the most important factor when considering the implications of unconventional coal seam gas mining.

A healthy community is a thriving community: physically, environmentally, financially and spiritually. I firmly believe that fracking will not benefit our community in any way.

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File1:

File2:

File3: