

Terrie Hall & Ian Fox



We moved to Birregurra eight years ago and are increasingly impressed by its rural beauty and sense of community.

We have watched Birregurra and its surrounds develop vibrant initiatives such as the Otway Harvest Trail, rail trails, farmers markets, festivals, art shows and bike riding events (just to name a few) which have breathed new life into the area, with chances to develop small businesses and strengthen community ties.

Since moving here and running an online bookselling business, we have been involved in helping to develop the Birregurra Structure Plan and with the local landcare group and its 'beautifying of Birregurra' program.

We feel our involvement with these two things in particular have not only given us an opportunity to really think about where we live and why, they have also given us an insight into what is valuable about Birregurra and its surrounds here in the south west of Victoria. It is all about quality of life.

It is clear that onshore unconventional gas exploration brings with it major problems in terms of polluting water, disturbing soil structure, poisoning land and destroying livability for residents. These are of such magnitude that it seems incomprehensible that they can ever be fully resolved.

We don't want Victoria to become the ugly, divided exploration pit that vast tracts of Queensland have become.

We want to be able to cheer a state government that can make the decision needed to sustain a basic quality of life for Victorians. When you have a roof over your head, clean water and land you can grow food on, you have the essentials for being able to live well and the opportunity to help yourself no matter what your financial situation.

No industry development is worth risking these enduring essentials. Once they are lost, they are lost for a long time - and indeed may never be retrievable.

That is the bottom line.

Please bear it in mind when considering applications for unconventional gas exploration.

Sincerely

Terrie Hall & Ian Fox