

Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

Individual submission from:
Margaret Byron
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Dear Premier Andrews

I don't think an onshore unconventional gas industry in Victoria is a good idea. There must be more equitable, sustainable and ethical alternatives in the 21st century.

An onshore unconventional gas industry is still wedded to the practice of exploiting and damaging resources for short-term gain and with little regard for future impacts.

I appreciate that your government has initiated a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Unconventional Gas (UCG) Industry rather than blindly accepting its rhetoric and spin.

Victoria is a densely populated state. Agriculture and food processing are the cornerstones of our economy. The experience of the unconventional gas industry elsewhere in Australia and overseas shows that this industry impacts negatively on farming. There are problems with all forms of UCG – coal seam gas, tight gas and shale gas.

The UCG industry does not have social license to operate in Victoria. This is shown by the fact that more than 60 communities have declared themselves coal or gas field free.

An onshore UCG industry will be negative for Victoria in environmental, social and economic terms. Some short term benefits for a few will leave long term pain for farmers, communities, ground water and the environment.

I hope that you will place a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas drilling in Victoria, and research better alternatives.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Byron