



Queenscliffe Community Association Inc.

Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas

To the Environment and Planning Committee,
From the Queenscliffe Community Association

The Queenscliffe Community Association wishes to make the following comments in relation to the Inquiry into Unconventional Gas. The QCA is aware that the Borough of Queenscliffe is outside the permit area of LakesOll however the Association believes the impacts of any extraction processes will extend far beyond the limits of permit areas.

The Geelong and Bellarine population receives 70% of their reticulated water from the Barwon River system, some of which includes groundwater from the Gerangamete bore-field. This includes Queenscliffe. The quality and chemistry of this water could be adversely affected by future mining, such as the fracking process, that uses toxic chemicals, plus great volumes of water, to extract gas from deep underground.

There has been no guarantee, from anybody, that groundwater will not be contaminated, and that residue water coming back to the surface, immediate or long-term (when the well is capped, and the mining company has left) – will not find its way into the water catchment system. We are also in a prized Wetland area that has both environmental and eco tourism value. These areas must be protected from such potential harmful impacts.

If we want to promote our district (and support all those areas within G21) and we value eco-tourism and the jobs that it brings – it might well be that, in this instance, mining and water harvesting for that purpose are not compatible – and therefore not in our short term and long-term interests at economic environmental and social levels.

We need to look to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and wave rather than having to deal with the long term consequences of a short term energy fix.

The Queenscliffe Community Association requests that the government inquiry implement a permit ban on any form of gas extract including tight, shale, fracking & underground coal gasification .

Thank you,

Mr D Connoley
President Queenscliffe Community Association

