

**From:** Geoff Coggins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 9:07 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

04/07/2015

Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

Dear Committee members,

I wish to make it clear that I do not support any type of unconventional gas mining ,UGM ,in Victoria

Members of my family have been farming in the Western District of Victoria since 1846. My wife & I farm south of Hamilton & I am also a Consultant Physician

We live in the Byaduk North district & when surveyed 96% of residents here were against UGM

I believe that there is no need to mine for gas onshore as current supplies of gas in Australia will last for hundreds of years and the environmental & public health risks are far too high to allow it With full scale production of gas mining in the district , the loss of agricultural production & tourism would never be compensated for by short term mining ( 15 - 20 years ) .There is a developing volcanic tourism site from Mt Rouse to Mt Napier & along the Byaduk Caves , lava flows & tumult to Mt Eccles . The larger area in the Western District includes the Kanawinka Geo Park.Of enormous importance is the area around Lake Condah,which is to become a World Heritage site , showing the commercial fish traps & stone houses used by the local aborigines hundreds of years ago. All of this would be threatened by mining .Land prices would also plummet in this prime agricultural area & would not recover due to the waste left by mining

Few jobs would be created as most miners are Fly in Fly out workers & there would be no net gain compared with the loss of farm workers & those in allied industries . Local towns ,already finding it difficult to survive ,would have further pressure on their existence A competitive source of energy would only exist for exports & local prices would rise to world parity

We do not need more fossil fuel sources for energy & should be exploring alternative energy sources such as solar wind & wave generation . The development of highly efficient solar applications & new battery storage mechanisms is a reality now.

The mining industry has & long history of poor self regulation & even secrecy about what chemicals are used in the fracking process It has been shown the that 1.8% of wells fail ,which means that if thousands of wells are drilled that it will be a certainty that the aquifers will be contaminated by toxic & radioactive material which will be impossible to repair

I have been practising medicine long enough to remember asbestos miners telling us that the asbestos was a safe material .We all know now what can happen years after the miners have gone with the development of Asbestosis & Mesothelioma

I am greatly concerned about environmental effects from mining . Well heads ,500 to750 meters apart with roads & pipes joining them will produce an industrial waste land compared with the current land . There would be compression stations & evaporative dams with noise & risk of contamination . Vast quantities of water are used & would devastate farms water supplies & risk contamination due to casing failure.Agriculture cannot exist without water .Most of the water would be lost & not be usable again .Australia has an enviable "clean & green" state & we would be foolish to risk this status .The millions of tonnes of salt that are produced is also a significant problem as disposal has not been resolved satisfactorily

Health is also a problem due to the hundreds of chemicals pumped into the wells ,along with sand . These chemicals are known to cause skin & eye irritation ,renal & liver disease & lung disease such as silicosis. Chemicals used are also carcinogens & are known to cause genetic mutations. These problems can affect landowners & there families , animals & even the miners themselves

As eminent members from "Doctors for the Environment Australia" state " unconventional gas projects should not be permitted near communities , water sources or agricultural land .The health & productivity of future generations depend on this

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Consultant Physician

Sent from my iPad 