

SUBMISSION to the Victorian Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into whether or not there should be an onshore unconventional gas industry in Victoria

Dear Planning & Environment Committee members,

I have attended various events organised by the 'Lock the Gate' Victoria movement over the past 3-4 years since ours and other rural communities have come under Exploration Licences for Coal and for CSG. I have also stayed in touch with these issues via the media as it directly concerns the future of my local community, other rural communities and Victoria in general.

I have found the information put out by Lock the Gate groups in Victoria expresses my own, my family's and our community's concerns and has given me an understanding of the concerns of other Victorians in regard to the possibility of onshore gasfields in our State.

My family and I fully support the more than 70 (and growing) 'Lock the Gate' groups across Victoria. In particular, we support their efforts to convince all members of this Committee to strongly and unanimously recommend, via 'Lock the Gate' groups' reasoned arguments, to inform governments on the community's behalf, that:

- a. this industry should not go ahead in Victoria; and
- b. as a matter of priority, the Government investigate the potential, benefits, opportunities and needs for the renewable sector to make a major contribution to our energy generation mix and to our export sector

It is my personal opinion that evidence of environmental damage from onshore gasfield and coal extraction far outweighs any economic advantage for the country.

Yours sincerely

Sylvia Ashcroft (Mrs)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of Sylvia Ashcroft.

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