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6th July 2015-07-06

Dear Sir/ Madam

With regard to your decision making role on whether to permit Coal Seam Gas exploration , if you have never had the experience of visiting or living in the south west of Victoria , I would like to invite you to visit my home. I live in Gorae West , a district of Portland and I don't believe that anyone could possibly make a decision to allow coal seam gas exploration anywhere in Victoria if they were familiar with and had first hand understanding of our beautiful and precious natural environment.

In this district we have significant National Park areas , unique cultural heritage, unique flora & fauna , pristine water catchments, rich farming and food growing land including apple orchards , vineyards & potato crops .On a recent visit to the National Gallery in Melbourne I saw artwork that was inspired by the artists visiting locations in this beautiful natural environment.

The words of an old song by Joni Mitchell , keep coming to my mind,

“Don't it always seem to go , that you don't know what you've got

'til it's gone , Take away paradiseand put up a parking lot!!”

Fifteen years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer and confronted with the very likely probability of premature death, fortunately I responded well to intensive treatment. At the time of diagnosis it was even clearer to me than ever before , that the most precious things that mattered in life were my Christian faith, my family and the beautiful natural environment in which I lived.

Everything else in life paled into insignificance.

Now for the sake of my children , grandchildren and future generations I am writing to plead with you to act to disallow the exploration of Coal Seam Gas as I believe if it occurs here it will destroy our environment and the health and well being of the families that live here.

Unashamedly , I admit that this letter comes “from the heart ”, but I know that there is already enough documented evidence available regarding the catastrophic detrimental effects to the land , water catchments and human health as a result of CSG exploration that has already occurred in other locations in Australia and the world.

Thank you for reading my letter and I urge you to act now to disallow Coal Seam Gas exploration in Victoria.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret Milich

