

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2015 7:27 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Submission

To the Committee,

We are citizens of Victoria living in Melbourne. We support the majority of communities of country Victoria who are against any form of unconventional gas, including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas, and underground coal gasification, and wish there to be a permanent ban.

The reasons why are:

We need to protect our water. Fracking uses large amounts of chemicals. Research shows many of these are hazardous to human health as well as to the environment. The National Toxics Network has said that BTEX can be released during the fracking process which can contaminate groundwater aquifers, or be released into the air. They also looked at 'flowback' to recover fracking fluids. The industry itself estimates that 40% of the chemicals are not recovered and remain in the environment. This report in 2010 said "this would correspond to 7400kg of chemicals per injection well".

Why on earth would we risk any contamination of our most precious resource?

The amount of water used in the industry is staggering. According to the CSIRO, depending on the well it could be a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of litres per day. This in a country where every drop is precious in a state where another drought could begin at any time.

And what to do with the waste water? I understand Queensland and NSW have banned evaporation ponds due to the unacceptable risk to the environment due to leakages and overflow during rain and wind. So what else can be done with it with no detrimental effects on the environment?

The next reason is:

It is clear that it is clear from Queensland and NSW that fracking has a detrimental effect on local communities. It is pushed through at huge cost to the farmers who are left to suffer the impacts of CSG exploration and mining with little recourse and few rights. The CSG infrastructure can be so invasive that other farming activities are severely impacted. Also property values plummet as no one wants to buy properties with wells.

Lastly:

This is not a clean energy source. It is crucial now to have courageous government who will make Victoria the proud State of renewable energy and take advantage of the long term jobs that will come with it.

In conclusion, companies will argue the economic benefits to the state, but they do not take into account the potential impact if aquifers are contaminated or negative effects on the wonderful food bowls of Victoria that provide us with safe food to eat.

Best regards

Ingrid de Neve and Mark Wallace