



From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
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Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 10:13 AM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria. 

Mr Robert Taylor


SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Committee,

I would like to express my views regarding the exploration and extraction of onshore Unconventional Gas in the state of Victoria. Firstly, in relation to “prospectivity”, I think that serious consideration needs to be taken on this point, given that areas of Victoria, and in particular rural Gippsland contain areas of highly fertile and productive land. The land therefore does not lend itself well to Unconventional Gas Mining as this is a disruptive, short term use of an already productive land mass. Farming, for example has continued thus far for generations and will continue for generations. The same cannot be said for Unconventional Gas Mining.

On the point of risks associated with Unconventional Gas mining, I believe that this presents the greatest issue. Particularly, the potentially negative impacts upon above and below ground water courses. Please understand that once contamination has occurred, it will be uncontainable and irreversible –as one cannot control the direction of water flow particularly underground. Clean water is far more valuable than any other extractable resource. Please also consider the risks of methane gas leakage from poorly sealed wells. Leakage of this nature contradicts the argument that Unconventional Gas Mining will produce less harmful gas emissions. One only has to look at the worrying examples of UCG mining and the environmental disasters impacting upon communities in states such as Wyoming in the United States.

I believe that any mining company considering mining including exploration and finally extraction should have a ‘social licence’. That is to say, they must have the full support of the relevant communities involved. I am unaware of any communities within Victoria allowing mining companies such a licence.

Finally, I believe that coal mining and UCG extraction will fast become redundant. Redundant as an actual mining method and also as an energy resource. It will have a life span. It is not sustainable or economically sustainable for that matter. Please invest time, people, funds and resources into truly sustainable forms of energy. Forms of energy that do not negatively impact environmentally, economically and psychologically upon those relevant communities.

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File1:

File2:

File3: