

**From:** Connor Jolley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 1:00 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas (UCG)

Connor Jolley  
[REDACTED]

Keir Delaney  
Secretary, Environment & Planning Committee Parliament House  
Spring Street  
Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr. Delaney,

I am writing to express my concerns around the mining of unconventional gas (UCG) in Victoria. I am an undergraduate student studying environmental social science at RMIT University and have great concerns around the development of UCG in Victoria and do not support any form of UCG mining in the state.

It is my firm opinion that the risks associated with developing such an industry far outweigh the benefits. Any economic benefits consumers may have received from opening up the industry in Victoria have been negated by the exposure of the Australian gas market to international trends. There is simply no amount of gas that can be mined domestically able to reduce prices when the industry would be competing against the demand of advanced economies such as Japan. With the economic deck stacked against consumers and prices forecast to rise steeply, it would be in the interest of all Victorians to begin transitioning away from gas, rather than further expanding gas production in a futile effort to offset the impact of trade exposure.

The UCG industry poses significant risks to the environment that, under current industry standards, simply cannot be effectively managed. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a potent greenhouse gas, with a tonne of CH<sub>4</sub> having the same warming properties as 25 tonnes equivalent of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The UCG industry has demonstrated a complete disregard for establishing baseline CH<sub>4</sub> levels around greenfield mining sites in order to quantify future fugitive emissions that occur as a result of mining activities. This dereliction of duty exposes the UCG industry as caring more about quick profits than the welfare of the environment and the community.

I recommend to the inquiry that Victoria ban all UCG mining and instead channel our resources into job creating industries such as renewable energy generation, tourism and agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

Connor Jolley