

## Submission to the UCG Inquiry

Dear Committee members,

I am a psychologist and concerned citizen who takes the notion that we are custodians of our children's future very seriously. There are numerous threats to a healthy future for the next generations and unconventional gas mining is one of them and I wish to express my unreserved objection to any form of unconventional gas mining including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification.

I drew great inspiration watching the people power of northern rivers in NSW successfully oppose the Metgasco mining licence, that the people's voice can still be heard in this matter and I write to you to add one more voice to the chorus of objections on this issue. I urge you to ban all unconventional gas mining permanently, creating instead a haven for the development of renewable forms of energy for our, and our children's, future prosperity.

Unconventional gas mining puts the quality of the water in our precious aquifers at risk hence threatening community health, farmland & food security. As such it will undoubtedly have impacts on agricultural production and domestic and export markets further detracting from economic arguments supporting its development. Fugitive gas emissions are also a constant risk further endangering health & environment.

This industry has not, as yet, been proven to be safe, will always represent an unnecessary risk to health of people & environments – unnecessary when safe alternatives exist.

How in a modern democracy can we have laws that allow huge mining companies to trample on the property rights, rights to safety & amenity of farmers & townships? When will business & politics wake up to the plain & simple necessity that we need to foster a vibrant renewable energy sector now and eliminate all non-renewables such as CSG from our energy sources? It is do-able, affordable, necessary and wise. Every delay will cost our kids dearly and investing in yet another form of fossil fuel energy is a retrograde move in every way for everyone concerned, except the fat cats of these companies.

I urge you to ban permanently any unconventional gas mining in Victoria.

Dr. Amanda Peyton

