

## Submission to the State Inquiry into Unconventional Gas.

I am a 65 year old retired teacher who has only recently become fully aware of the dangers of unconventional gas mining. I am horrified to think that the Victorian government would consider doing the same thing in Victoria that has been shown to be so destructive in Queensland and N.S.W., as well as the United States. I am grateful that we have the opportunity through this inquiry, to keep Victoria free of a process that is dangerous both to human health and the environment.

I am particularly concerned about the effects of toxic chemicals on our water supply. In Australia, where the prospect of drought is ever present (and in parts of Australia a way of life) carrying out an activity which is such a threat to our precious water resources would be totally irresponsible.

Governments often appear to think that people care only about improving their financial situation. However most people are concerned about more than the "hip pocket" and they expect their governments to look beyond immediate economic enticements. Any form of unconventional gas mining is carried out at the expense of the environment and may mean that future generations will inherit a polluted desert rather than the beautiful state that we have now. We should be encouraging renewable forms of energy rather than allowing a few wealthy foreign companies to become even wealthier at the expense of current and future populations.

Any potential benefits of onshore unconventional gas as a source of energy for Victoria is far outweighed by the harm it will do, and I fervently hope that this inquiry will recommend banning all unconventional gas drilling in Victoria permanently.

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