

To the Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee

Re: **Inquiry into**

**Should there be an onshore unconventional gas industry in Victoria?**

Please find my thoughts on this matter :

Denyse Menzies

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To whom it may concern

My family and I moved in to the beautiful area of Mirboo North over 30 years ago, we were attracted by the reliable high rainfall, picturesque views and rural lifestyle. Finding myself on my own 5 years ago I downsized to a smaller property of about 7 acres in Mardan about 10 kilometres from Mirboo North, just enough land for myself 3 horses and 2 dogs. I run a small business from home, so I spend a large portion of my week here. This area is under Exploration licence for CSG, over the past few years I have gained a good understanding and insight into this industry. The scientific concepts associated with these practices are vast and complex. I am fortunate to have a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Melbourne University, and I feel I have an adequate understanding of the science.

If this industry were allowed to go ahead, assuming adequate yields of gas, I would not want to live here, although I can make a stand not to have the industry on my property, my neighbour has a large farm and I cannot prevent him from accepting possibly lucrative offers from resource companies. If this were to happen I would find my situation untenable with little way to escape, most people do not want to be property in the middle of a gas field, the property would be devalued up to 20% and I would be lucky to sell it; even the resource companies are loathe to purchase land for CSG industry preferring to just lease it, minimal repatriation is required as all the damage is out of eyesight.

### **I DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INDUSTRIALIZED GASFIELD**

I will briefly list my concerns with this industry which I am sure has been covered in many submissions:

- Massive consumption of water
- Production of enormous quantities of polluted coproduced water
- Possible contamination of aquifers, soil, air and water ways
- Methane emissions from the drilling and/or fracking process from gas wells, migration into the soil and surrounding water reserves and leaks from well heads and gas pipe lines, processing plant etc.
- Increase in seismic activity if fracking techniques were employed

- Unsightly infrastructure well pads, processing plants ,pipelines as far as the eye can see, spoiling the rural views not just for the local community but for the tourism industry
- The roads in South Gippsland were never designed to deal with the flood of trucks that would be needed in the development of an unconventional gasfield the risk for accidents and spills would be very high also massive wear and tear on roads already under pressure.
- The loss of the “The great Gippsland brand”for our agricultural products farmers and producers can longer be sure of the chemicals affecting products due to possible pollution risks.
- Fractured community those in favour of mining those against
- An influx of FIFO workers creating social issues, potential price hikes in accommodation ,social unrest need for a greater police presence
- My biggest concerns are to potential health risks due to presence of chemicals in the air and water, increases in noise due to flaring, gas processing plants and traffic. Depression from being forced to live in an industrial zone from a tranquil rural area and no escape.
- Mirboo North and surrounding areas are subject to bush fires, gas is very volatile and combustible much greater risks of fires. How will local CFA deal with these prospects?
- If my property is surrounded by a gas field will I be able to insure my property and contents? Will my insurance costs escalate because of the inherent risks of living in a gas field?
- What are the long term impacts of the gas wells after they are decommissioned? Leakage can still occur, who monitors them?
- Loss of tourism and jobs associated with the industry

In summary is it just and fair that the community and myself have to endure the impacts of a dirty, unsightly industry forced on us ,suffer potential health risks and financial losses to support resource companies ,their share holder and government coffers to supply unconventional gas for export as there is already plenty of conventional gas from Bass Strait. Further to this with LNG plants being constructed to export unconventional gas , the domestic market will now have to compete for gas on the international market and pay much higher prices for gas. I suspect there will be a reduced demand for gas in the coming years as people and seek out cheaper and more sustainable energy sources.

**Please put a permanent ban on unconventional gas exploration, keep  
Victoria clean and green for the future!**

Yours faithfully

Denyse Menzies