

From: [REDACTED]
To: [EPC](#)
Date: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 6:19:45 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Elizabeth Owen. I live in Warrnambool, Victoria. I moved to Warrnambool thirty five years ago to open a photo processing business. I'm also a retired teacher and have adult children. Warrnambool has provided us with a good living and a clean and safe environment in which to raise our children.

SW Victoria has a strong dairy industry which employs a very large percentage of our local population, while supplying both domestic and overseas markets. It relies heavily on our clean and plentiful underground water.

Our dairy industry is an important part of Australia's food production as well as sustaining both local, State and Federal economies. Being able to feed our people will become increasingly more urgent as the earth's population grows and the effects of climate change and rising sea levels cause population displacements and food shortages.

Onshore gas drilling will threaten our underground water supply in two ways. The processes of unconventional gas drilling involves the use of large amounts of water, which will deplete the water supply for other uses. The chemicals used in the process will contaminate water used for drinking and agriculture.

There is a great danger of leakage into the water supply as well as contamination of air and soil. All of these are vital to clean and healthy food production.

Gas is, in the end, a fossil fuel that contributes to the effects of climate change. It should not be introduced or depended on for future energy use. We must not go down the path of fossil fuel dependency when we are now aware that fossil fuels are dangerous and destructive to humans and all other species, as well as poisoning the air, soil and water upon which we all depend for survival.

It is a retrograde act to destroy food producing land in search of another fossil fuel. We need more wind, wave and solar energy, which are bountiful in South West Victoria. We could become the renewable energy capital of Australia.

Due to these and many other reasons, I urge members of the Committee running the Inquiry to recommend that Victoria adopt a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas drilling.

Yours Sincerely,
Elizabeth Owen

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