

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to make a submission to the State government's enquiry into unconventional gas mining.

My name is Harry Barton. I grew up and live in Bairnsdale, and have just finished a degree in Environmental Science. As part of my studies, I have learned a lot about Unconventional Gas Mining, and am very concerned to hear it is being considered in my local region. I do not support unconventional gas mining, coal seam gas, shale gas, underground coal gasification or tight gas mining in any way.

I believe the risks to our currently widespread and thriving industries of agriculture and tourism are not warranted by the potential for profit for mining companies. The danger of unconventional gas extraction also extends to our natural wilderness assets. I know that risk in Unconventional Gas Mining is inherent to the process of extraction. I believe taking such a risk in the knowledge of how it has affected similar communities around Australia and the world would be incredibly irresponsible and short sighted.

Even despite the risks to health, the environment and the future economy of the region, I believe finding and utilising more sources of fossil fuels is irresponsible, not to mention financially risky, considering our need to transition to carbon-neutral forms of energy production as soon as possible.

I hope you consider this submission, and those from others in the community carefully and with respect. This is our region, our community, our wildlife and our livelihoods at stake.

Thankyou  
Harry Barton

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