

From: Rainer Maier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 9:42 AM
To: EPC
Subject: Unconventional Gas- Why I am against it

Dear Member,

I moved to the lovely town of Outtrim over 18 months ago after living in Melbourne for 41 years. I am the Director of my own company and have found the move very rewarding. The change was made so as to allow my family a clean and safe living environment. Recently we have seen this 'right' to a clean living environment taken away with the roadside seismic exploration for coal and gas in the South Gippsland area, with obvious view to begin mining for unconventional gas.

Myself, and 98% of the population of South Gippsland oppose unconventional gas exploration. So why does the Government feel the need to undertake this exploration, without community consultation, on government owned roadsides. This has angered myself and much of the community. There are environmental, land productivity and public health risks, risk mitigations and residual risks of onshore unconventional gas activities.

I would therefore request the permanent cessation of all unconventional gas exploration in Victoria. Our arguments against coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification are listed below:

- (1) the prospectivity of Victoria's geology for commercial sources of onshore unconventional gas;
- (2) the environmental, land productivity and public health risks, risk mitigations and residual risks of onshore unconventional gas activities;
- (3) the coexistence of onshore unconventional gas activities with existing land and water uses, including —
 - (a) agricultural production and domestic and export market requirements;

(b) the legal rights of property owners and the impact on property values; and

(c) any implications for local and regional development, investment and jobs;

(4) the ability of potential onshore unconventional gas resources contributing to the State's overall energy sources including —

(a) an ability to provide a competitive source of energy and non energy inputs for Victorian industries;

(b) an affordable energy source for domestic consumers; and

(c) carbon dioxide emissions from these sources;

(5) the resource knowledge requirements and policy and regulatory safeguards that would be necessary to enable exploration and development of onshore unconventional gas resources, including —

(a) further scientific work to inform the effective regulation of an onshore unconventional gas industry, including the role of industry and government, particularly in relation to rigorous monitoring and enforcement, and the effectiveness of impact mitigation responses; and

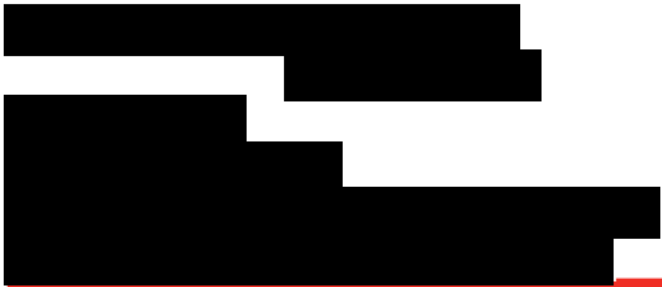
(b) performance standards for managing environmental and health risks, including water quality, air quality, chemical use, waste disposal, land contamination and geotechnical stability;

(6) relevant domestic and international reviews and inquiries covering the management of risks for similar industries including, but not limited to, the Victorian Auditor-General Office's report Unconventional Gas: Managing Risks and Impacts (contingent upon this report being presented to Parliament) and other reports generated by the Victorian community and stakeholder engagement programs.

Please consider this submission carefully as South Gippsland also provides almost 1/3 of the WHOLE of Australia's dairy supplies. This exploration, and poor mining practices, puts that supply in huge jeopardy.

Kind Regards

Rainer Maier
Clinical Orthotist / Group Director



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