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From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 9:39 AM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mr Peter Flanagan
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I have done my own research into coal seam gas and have concluded that the environmental risks to the many are too high to outweigh the potential economic benefits to the few. I would support a permanent ban in Victoria on all "unconventional gas". There is no point to do exploration either if we have no intention to grant extraction licences either.

The hydraulic fracturing (fracking) used to improve the extraction of such gas uses toxic and often un-acknowledged chemicals. The potential for such chemicals to enter the water table would potentially make large parts of our agriculture (the parts that rely on artesian water supplies) impossible.

To say that any polluter will "have to pay the costs" of their pollution is not sensible, as the costs would be too great and the impact irreversible.

We have seen with the Hazelwood mine fire that polluters will resist any attempts to make them pay for the costs to the community for their deficiencies. Loss of water supplies could never be funded by any bond put on a miner (they would declare bankruptcy and walk away) and the cost of damage will fall on all Victorians through their government.

I am in favour of decarbonising our economy. Using natural gas (methane) for energy generation may be better than coal, but neither is a long term solution. The cost of sustainable energy sources is falling rapidly and WILL be the long term solution for electricity and it will be with us very soon in a cost competitive way.

Fugitive emissions from the gas production have been seen in the USA, eg water courses bubbling with gas and catching fire. I believe that NSW gas sources are also leaking. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and its loss to atmosphere should be avoided. Let us not add to the prospect of climate change by emitting methane in our attempts to reduce carbon dioxide.

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File1:

File2:

File3: