

From: Lois Rayan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 8:29 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission for Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas

I am a 72 year old mother of two and grandmother of four. I am very concerned about the future we face in regard to using unconventional methods of extracting gas.

The potential health and environmental dangers caused by CSG fracking in Victoria are enormous. Victoria needs a permanent ban on all unconventional gas mining. It threatens the basis of all life, our drinking water.

There is no way that risks to our farming land and water resources can be safely managed. We saw with the Hazelwood mine fire that safety regulations can fail or simply not be adhered to.

These failures lead to massive environmental and public health problems.

It is simply not worth the risk. Once an aquifers is contaminated, there's no going back. Contaminated forever. It's a terrifying thought.

According to the Australian Energy Market Operator there is no gas shortage anywhere in Australia. Why risk the dangers when there is no need?

No matter how much gas we are able to produce, the price will continue to rise as our consumption is tied to international markets.

Most of the gas currently produced is exported to the highest bidder and we will be left with the environmental disaster. The only ones who gain are the mining companies.

We have seen what has happened in America with vast tracts of land laid waste, empty towns.

It's already happening in Australia in Qld and NSW. Tourists travelling to Chinchilla in Qld are told to bring their own drinking water as the town water is undrinkable. Many houses lie empty as people evacuate.

There is no safe way to dispose of the "produced" (toxic) water which results. Holding ponds leak or overflow in floods. Toxic chemicals are forced into the ground under pressure. The nightmare list continues to grow

How many warnings do we need?

When will we learn?

Ban all unconventional gas in Victoria before it's too late. A new gas industry in Victoria has no place in our future energy needs.

We must look to renewable clean energy sources.

I urge you to consider this submission. Thank you.

Mrs Lois Ryan
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