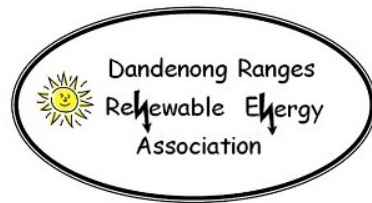


From: Peter Cook <pcook@wildcoast.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 9:35 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission re unconventional gas drilling
Attachments: State Fracking Inquiry.doc

Please see attached.

Peter Cook
DRREA



'Helping build a renewable energy community'



PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO UNCONVENTIONAL GAS DRILLING

I write on behalf of Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association Inc. We are an incorporated community group of 54 members.

Our submission to this inquiry is that there should be a permanent ban on all on-shore unconventional gas drilling. Our reasons are as follows.

A growing number of states overseas are placing bans or long term moratoriums as the impacts of fracking become more apparent. Victoria should also err on the side of caution and not wait until these problems occur.

Victoria has some of the best food producing farmland in Australia. Its financial productivity and its ability to produce 'clean and green' produce should not be put at risk in any way.

Overseas experience shows that unconventional gas drilling can also have negative consequences in populated areas. We should not take this risk in Australia.

In both instances, the gas industry is unlikely to be accepted by the community because of doubt about its environmental and health impacts. Without this social licence government should not give the gas industry the green light.

Also, government should not proceed based on any belief that gas is needed as a transitional fuel.

With forward planning Victoria's future energy needs can increasingly be met with renewable energy. This was demonstrated in the 2012, Stationery Energy Report by Beyond Zero Emissions.

In conclusion, any short term benefits of unconventional gas drilling are likely to have significant long term costs. Secondly, it is not necessary from an energy perspective.

Peter Cook

President (Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association Inc)