

**From:** lorrain bull [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 10:55 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** UCG parl. inquiry submission

My name is Lorraine Bull, [REDACTED]. I am retired, and have become increasingly concerned about the future which my children and grandchildren will have to deal with, as global warming evolves. Already the effects of climate change is becoming evident throughout the world, with more frequent droughts, storms, cyclones, floods and bushfires. For example, the Morwell/Hazelwood Mine fire, 600metres from my home, was influenced by a 45 degree temperature, strong winds and a tinder dry landscape. California has been in drought for 4 years and is running out of water. Germany experienced its hottest day recorded of 43 degrees on 6<sup>th</sup> July. More than 2500 people died in India during a June heatwave. Category 5 cyclone Pam devastated Vanuatu in March 2015, with winds of nearly 300m/h. It would be foolish to deny that use of fossil fuels has been of benefit to modern society but we have unwittingly created the problem of global warming through the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

We now know that if the future is to be as liveable as the past that temperature rise must be limited to 2 degrees Celsius. In my opinion even this is too high. UK research group Carbon Tracker 2013 report developed a global carbon budget whereby most known reserves of fossil fuels cannot be burnt. Australia's Climate Change Authority recommends that Australia should reduce its emissions by 15% below 2000 levels by 2020 and commit to reducing emissions by 40 to 60% a decade later in 2030. If this rate of reduction was followed through to 2050, it would see Australia keep within its emissions budget, and avoid transferring our responsibility onto future generations.

How then, can or should we justify speculative exploration for more fossil fuel, in this case unconventional gas ie methane. Coal-burning has been the major cause of CO2 emissions, but methane is scientifically estimated to be 8 times worse greenhouse gas. Australia's initiative and expertise should be concentrating on development of and conversion to non-fossil sources of energy, particularly solar and wind as we have an abundance of each.

As reported in The Age, 7 July 2015, the latest Carbon Tracker report states that global lower demand for fossil fuels due to climate change constraints has removed the need for any new investment in LNG for the next 10 years, and current demand can be met by projects that have already been committed to. The report anticipates that only the most competitive supply projects will go ahead ie. a supply cost of less than \$US10/million British thermal units, This will rule out many Australian LNG projects, and I question how UCG exploration in Victoria could be competitive. On 6 July 2015, AGL has announced their withdrawal from massive CSG projects across 6500km of NSW, covering Sydney water catchments, Illawarra, Camden and the Hunter Valley. CEO Andy Vesey told investors that AGL would not commit significant capital to these gas projects due to uncertain long term energy prices and ample supplies on the east coast.

I wish to make it clear that I will resist further development of fossil fuels, particularly in Gippsland, and particularly any form of unconventional gas mining (including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification), and urge that any such plans be abandoned.

Gippsland may be the future food bowl for Victoria as scientists predict that inland Australia will become drier and seasons more tropical under the influence of climate change. Gippsland's agriculture is a multimillion business and provides thousands of jobs, particularly in dairy, but also

in beef, lamb, venison, vegetable and fruit crops, eggs, wineries and fishing. Why should this wonderful industry, water, landscape and employment be put at risk when the need for more gas is in doubt. Rural communities love their land. It is their home, family, community, livelihood, heritage and bequest.

Brown coal mines have industrialised the Latrobe Valley, yet there is also a UCG overlay Latrobe Valley has contributed significantly to Victoria's prosperity and should not be expected to suffer further degradation from UCG mining. Nearby areas of Mirboo North, Boolara and Toongabbie have declared themselves to be CSG-free and Gormandale will do so on Sunday 19th July, with an overwhelming 94% against new coal and gasfields.

Many other contributors to this Parliamentary Inquiry will highlight the folly of allowing UCG in Victoria, for many reasons ranging from farm disruption and well failure to contamination of water supply and health impacts of gas and chemical escape. I simply ask that we heed the rest of the world in moving to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve our beautiful Victoria for our future generations.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott on 4 July, while launching the Agricultural Competitive White Paper, stated that "One day the coal will have been dug up, the gas will have been extracted, but we will always need food and our land forever," Yes, we will always need food, but the ability of the land and climate to supply it will be in doubt if we allow his suggestion. It is essential to take action to reduce atmospheric carbon. Even Pope Francis pleads this in his recent encyclical.

Finally, I wish to thank the Committee for their dedication and close attention to this serious issue.

Lorraine Bull