

Submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into Unconventional Gas

From:-

Trevor Caldwell

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In expressing my opposition to Unconventional Gas Production (fracking) in Victoria I would like to raise the following concerns :-

1. Global warming

I accept the ever growing body of science that supports the view that human caused climate change is the major issue confronting our planet today. Unless we take immediate steps to address the issue the outcome for all life on earth will be increasingly compromised. Thus any activity that impacts on our CO₂ output should not now proceed. Gas produced by fracking will release additional CO₂ into the atmosphere during the exploration, construction and usage phases.

The potential to meet and store our energy need from renewable resources is now significant and increasing. This is where Victoria should focus. Gas produced by fracking has no part to play in meeting our future energy needs. By leaving fossil fuels in the ground and by saying no to this fledgeling industry we in Victoria will assist us achieve zero emissions and hopefully limit any increase in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius. However, we must act now.

2. Pollution of underground water

Our clean underground water reserves are essential for the production of our food. This supply is limited and any process or industry that has the potential to increase use of and/or pollute these aquifers is simply unacceptable. Fracking uses significant quantities of water and the chemicals used in the process has every chance of seriously polluting this supply. For this reason it would therefore be most unwise to proceed with fracking.

3. Impact on farming & food production

The CSG industry also has the potential to disrupt and compromise our agricultural production and negatively impact on the lifestyle of those who work and live on the land or live nearby,

4. Possible impact on Human Health

There appears to be an increasing body of evidence that fracking does have an impact on the health of those that live in proximity to this industry's operations. Another reason for not allowing Fracking to proceed

For the reasons I have outlined above **I therefore support a permanent ban on all unconventional gas activity in Victoria.**

Trevor Caldwell