

From: heather richardson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 3:25 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to parliamentary inquiry on unconventional gas extraction
Attachments: Urbina2011-08-03.pdf; New Solut-2013-Steinzor-55-83.pdf

I am writing to express my concerns about the prospect of onshore gas extraction of any description being permitted in Victoria.

I live in Portland where we rely on the Dilwyn aquifer for our water supply. There is still a lot that is unknown about the movement of groundwater and much more research by hydrologists is required before the moratorium on gas extraction is lifted.

My overwhelming concern with onshore gas extraction is the potential impact on our water supply. The oil and gas industry say there are no recorded cases of groundwater contamination but in fact there are. (see attached file)

If there is even a one in 20 million chance of our water supply being contaminated then the risk is unacceptable.

I am also concerned about the volume of water required for the process of gas extraction in this, the most arid continent on Earth. Where will the water come from? We cannot afford to gamble with our water supply.

The potential health impacts of living near a gasfield are also of great concern to me. (see attached files)

I also am concerned about the prospect of increased noise, pollution and industrialisation of rural areas that this industry carries with it.

Another point I would like to make is that Portland has a real future as a renewable energy hub with wind farms and the potential for wave energy harvesting as well as thermal bores which have in the past been used for heating of our public buildings. Surely allowing fossil fuel extraction runs counter to this. This was part of the reason the Glenelg Shire was the first council Victoria to say no to fracking and coal seam gas extraction.

I also wonder how it could be possible to allow onshore gas extraction in Victoria when the public are so overwhelmingly opposed to it. Our region was surveyed with an average of 98% saying NO to onshore gas. Surely as our elected representatives the will of the people must be a primary concern or do we not live in a democracy?

We do not in fact need an inquiry into this destructive and backward industry, we need a total and permanent ban.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Richardson
[REDACTED]

