

Parliamentary inquiry into Unconventional Gas

To the Planning and Environment committee,

I am writing to you to express my concerns about Unconventional Gas (UG), particularly in my area.

I am a Mum of two children and moved to Moriac 2 years ago for the peaceful rural life. When I heard about a licence over our area, I admit I didn't know a lot about UG. So of course, I Googled it.

From that point on, I have read many reports, looked at every website possible, read pro gas industry statements, watched You tube videos and attended info nights.

So what is fact, what are lies and what is stretched truths? I sat on that fence for a short while, until I looked at my children and thought, what will be left for them, if I let this happen.

This issue is actually simple. There are two sides. MONEY verses PEOPLE.

MONEY - The Gas industry are purely in it for themselves. It is a money grabbing exercise. Nothing else. They dont do it to provide gas for Victoria, they sell it to the highest bidder. They don't do it for jobs, they come and go with a FIFO skeleton crew, putting other industries jobs at risk, such as tourism and agriculture. And they sure don't do it to 'compensate' communities. I have not yet seen any community consultation from the company that own PEP163.

PEOPLE - So the flip side is the people. Should we be protecting the way of life in Victoria. In my area, farming and business/tourism is the way of life. We enjoy rural setting, close to beaches, and the Great Ocean Road/Otways. This brings tourists from around the world (1.64million in 2013). How embarrassing to have gas wells scattered throughout Victoria as they visit?

I'm not going to list all my concerns I have about the UG industry. I have been following the published submissions and public hearing in Sale and it is clear, that you, the committee have heard most points.

So when a decision is made, I will know. If the Industry is allow, you have chosen MONEY.

If a ban is put in place, then I know you have chosen the PEOPLE.

It is as simple as that. My family and children will live with your decision, but we will not live alongside this industry.

Thank you

Alison Marchant

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