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**From:** Karen Fitzpatrick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 July 2015 11:15 AM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Unconventional gas in Victoria

To the Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas.

Please place a permanent ban on all unconventional gas mining in Victoria.

Take into account the experiences in areas of Queensland where people have been forced off their small holdings due to the effects of CSG mining polluting water and air, not to mention the bullying tactics of the mining companies themselves.

Victoria is a small state, with rapidly dwindling agricultural land being taken over by urban sprawl. Surely it makes sense not to jeopardize the remaining agricultural lands and employment by allowing an industry with high potential for contaminating our precious underground water and our fresh air. It makes no sense.

It's not as if we need the gas as the Australian Energy Market Operator says there is no gas shortage in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia, so there is no need to risk the health of crucial farmland just to extract gas that we don't need, especially if that gas is then going to be exported (along with associated profits). I'm sure mining companies are dangling generous royalty payments to the government as incentive but no amount of money can make up for the potential damage this industry can cause.

The time is here for major development of non-toxic, renewable energy sources - the sun, wind, geothermal and ocean. In a rapidly warming environment and an increasingly unstable financial and political world, we can no longer rely on dirty forms of energy. We must act now to have any chance of a viable future and Victoria should lead the way.

regards,  
Karen Fitzpatrick  
[REDACTED]