

From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
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Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 12:29 PM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mr Nick Brodribb

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The long term impacts of unconventional gas extraction are not well understood. Accounts of ground water contamination, increased seismic activity and atmospheric pollution are well publicised. The impacts of expanded hydrocarbon extraction and combustion are also well understood (refer to the IPCC reports). These impacts must be carefully considered - particularly the long-term nature of their effects - and weighed up against the short term benefits of unconventional gas production in Victoria. This is particularly the case in a state where alternative sources of energy (solar, wind, tide) are plentiful, but alternative sources of potable and irrigation water and arable land are not.

Driving energy development away from short-term non-renewable sources can only be a beneficial policy direction for medium and long term energy security as well as short, medium and long term water and food security.

Victoria and its EPA have been regarded as nation-leading in the area of environmental protection. We have the best wastewater treatment systems in the country, the most sophisticated and forward thinking pollution and contamination legislation and a capacity to apply the precautionary principle so as to protect future generations from both known and suspected risks. This leadership role should be valued and maintained. It is a source of great pride to Victorians.

The short-term economic benefit of unconventional gas should be outweighed by the broader, longer term economic, social and environmental benefits described above.

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File1:

File2:

File3: