

**From:** Michael Gooch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 July 2015 1:46 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** UGC inquiry submission

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Dear Committee members,

My name is Michael Gooch, I live in Sunshine West and also own a 20 acre bush block in Clunes, Victoria. I am writing my submission to state my view that we as a community and populace need to work together with respect to protect the flora and fauna in our natural environment.

I do not support any form of unconventional gas mining (including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification) and I will never support it, no matter what potential regulations are put in place. We see time and time again the regulations abused, ignored or proven at too late a time to be flawed; nor do I believe they are even instigated with the correct rigour or deference to the relevant experts in the field. If there is any lack of complete surety the approach should unequivocally be one of universal precaution - i.e. err on the side of caution, not commerce!

The risks involved are too great and it is not possible to 'fix' problems that arise from things such as leaking wells poisoning our water and land. Once the damage has occurred it will be there forever and no amount of money or offsets can make up for the water and land that is affected and the resulting impact on the plants, animals and humans that utilise them. I think it is an utter disgrace that landowners face real and actual lack of sovereignty over the land they care for and have paid hard earned money for. To have prime agricultural land also chewed up to me is absolutely insane.

I recommend that Victoria ban all unconventional gas drilling permanently. This would directly benefit agriculture & tourism, making Victoria a more attractive place for investments in these industries plus new investments such

as renewables. These actions will create more long term jobs in sustainable industries.

Regards,

Michael Gooch

[REDACTED]