



Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc
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Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

Dear Committee Members

We would like to add this to our main submission.

We asked our members and supporters who were too busy to write a submission to sign a petition asking for a ban on unconventional gas.

It is available online here: http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/ban_ucg_in_victoria

So far, 1,055 people have signed the petition.

The text of the petition is below.

Regards
Cam Walker
Friends of the Earth

Ban unconventional gas drilling in Victoria.

Dear Premier Andrews,

I appreciate that your government has initiated a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Unconventional Gas (UCG) Industry.

We are fortunate to still have the opportunity to stop the industry before it gets established in our state.

Victoria is a densely populated state. Agriculture and food processing are the cornerstones of our economy. The experience of the unconventional gas industry elsewhere in Australia and overseas shows that this industry impacts negatively on farming. There are problems with all forms of UCG – coal seam gas, tight gas and shale gas.

The UCG industry does not have social license to operate in Victoria. This is shown by the fact that more than 60 communities have declared themselves coal or gasfield free.

I urge you to use this Inquiry to close off Victoria to this destructive industry. This is our

best chance to learn from the problems and damage that has been caused by this industry elsewhere. An onshore UCG industry will be negative for Victoria in environmental, social and economic terms. Some short term benefits for a few will leave long term pain for farmers, communities, ground water and the environment.

I urge you to place a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas drilling in Victoria.