

Submission to the State government Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

My name is Naomi Halpern and I live in Apollo Bay. I do not support any drilling for unconventional gas in Victoria. I am of the firm conviction that there should be a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas drilling in Victoria.

The evidence from other parts of the world, such as North America and including here in Australia, is that unconventional gas drilling is unsafe for the environment and the health and well being of people in communities impacted by drilling.

Unconventional gas drilling has been targeted in areas of Victoria that are reliant on agriculture, food processing, conservation and tourism. Unconventional gas drilling is incompatible with these vital aspects of Victoria's resources and livelihoods, posing a great threat and damage to these industries and populations.

Unconventional gas is a fossil fuel that would create further dependence on coal and gas energy, contributing further to greenhouse gas emissions. A focus on any short term economic gains is both short sighted and irresponsible when viewed against the long term damage and impacts of fossil fuels. Our resources would be better spent on developing clean and renewable energy sources.

There is strong opposition to unconventional gas drilling in over 60 communities throughout Victoria. I urge you to listen to the voice of the people of Victoria that rely on government to take a strong stance in protecting people and the environment. I make a strong plea that you recommend Victoria places a ban on all unconventional gas drilling permanently.