

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 2:26 PM
To: EPC
Subject: My name is Pamela Fyfe and I wish to make a submit

My name is Pamela Fyfe and I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria. I am against the mining of unconventional gas.

I live in Birregurra having moved from Seaholme (Altona) twelve years ago. My husband and I sought community involvement again and clean, clear air, water and land away from refineries and industry. We have achieved our aims.

95% of my community are totally opposed to process of mining Unconventional Gas. We are only one of 60 communities across Victoria, which have declared that they want to be totally free of unconventional gas, whether it be coal seam, tight or shale. They do not want the drilling on their land or that of their neighbours. The number of communities opposing the industry is growing. It would be socially unacceptable to impose this when only 5% of people want it or didn't want to commit in the survey.

My main objection to the Unconventional Gas industry is that we live in, and are part of a wider area of productive farming land. We cannot risk the contamination of the land, or more importantly water (both surface and ground) across the area. It is all inter-connected. The amount of water as well as the chemicals used in the fracking process have proved devastating in other areas of Australia (eg Queensland) and across the world (eg parts of the USA). Unpolluted land and water are the basic requirements for the safe production of food, for local and overseas markets.

South west Victoria is important also for the growing national and international tourist industry. Small and larger operators encourage visitors with our clean spaces and wonderful food. We should not be prepared to risk these important aspects of our economy.

Further jobs and wealth for the area come from those food manufacturers and businesses that support or service the farming and tourist industries. Unconventional Gas production could impact on these too. Our economic future lies in the "clean and green" image that is south west Victoria.

The companies involved in the Unconventional Gas industry do not support local communities. They do not involve local jobs. They bring in workers in fully self contained camps, drill the wells then move on. There is no lasting assistance to the community. The companies stand to make extensive profits using Victorian resources by exporting the gas without any concern for local areas. The royalties to the Victorian government will be negligible compared to the damage that they leave behind.

Finally, the people involved in groups such as Lock the Gate, are passionate about saving the water and the land for many generations to come. It would be unacceptable for the present and/or future governments to sell out to the large and powerful mining companies and ignore the wishes of 95% of the people. Governments are elected to represent the will of the people.

Yours sincerely,
Pamela Fyfe