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From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 2:28 PM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Elke Nicholson
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Inquirers,

I am writing to urge the Inquiry to recommend that Victoria adopt a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas drilling.

The risks of unconventional gas drilling are well known and documented. These include pollution of water and air, reduction in the use of agricultural land adverse health impacts for those living near wells.

I have flown over lands in South East Queensland and USA which have been extensively destroyed by unconventional gas drilling. The visual impact is stunning and appalling. However, the far greater and more serious impact is that on the quality of land and water around the wells. These impacts extend to both surface water and underground aquifers.

GasField Free Northern Rivers noted the risks as follows:

- "- Depletion and contamination of underground and surface water systems and supplies
- Lack of any safe method of disposal of the large quantities of polluted wastewater brought to the surface in the extraction process;
- Leaking of methane from wells and pipelines and off-gassing of volatile organic compounds from wastewater storages and compressor stations;
- Human and animal health impacts from air, water and soil pollution;
- Loss of agricultural land and native vegetation from the large surface footprint of CSG operations; and
- Risk of seismic activity from fracking and aquifer re-injection."

These are not risks we should be willing to take in Victoria. The quality of our limited water resources and agricultural land should be a paramount concern.

On this basis, there should be a permanent ban on onshore unconventional gas drilling in Victoria.

Kind regards,
Elke Nicholson

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File1:

File2:

File3: