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From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mrs Vivienne Benton
[REDACTED]

Secretary
The Australian Living Earth Centre
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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We are at a cross road here in Victoria and our next step requires careful consideration. In Victoria, we have a great opportunity to create a clean, green state, a position that will be denied to Queensland because in large part to the infiltration of that state by the CSG industry.

Our fellow citizens in Queensland are suffering from ill health which has occurred since the pollution of air water and soils due to the outpouring of chemical pollutants from wells that are in profusion in farming land. Some farmers that I have personally spoken with have reported children and grandchildren living some distance from the flare off sites sick and bleeding from noses and ears. Others claim their children appear to be suffering from mental development lag. Other farmers report a white dusting like snow on their water tank drinking water, and have watched, filmed and tested with a geiger-counter CSG companies spraying radioactive waste water on the roads adjoining their properties. Some of these farmers are no longer willing to send their meat or milk to market because they fear for the health of customers due to pollution that may have been absorbed by the source animals.

Concern from scientists and water specialist has also been expressed for the integrity of the aquifers and water ways due to fracking compromising the overlays of rock and soil, and polluted water making its way to streams and rivers and thus into larger catchment areas.

Reports from the United States show that where ever fracking has been allowed, earthquakes grow in frequency and size. This effect has been mirrored at Seaspray in Victoria. Recently the state of Oklahoma has given land owners the right to sue fracking companies for any property damage that may occur after earthquakes precipitated by fracking.

With climate change, food security is likely to become an important issue for the world in the future, and any state that maintains its water, air and soils in unpolluted condition will become the food basket of the world. Victoria could claim this title with the rapid growth of organic and biodynamic practices across the farming sector. Innovative farming techniques in Victoria attract a great deal of attention locally, nationally, and internationally. Customers are seeking out food they know will deliver peak nutrition, food grown incorporating environmentally sensitive practices.

The CSG industry cannot be allowed to run rough shod of the rights of farmers, food consumers,

community health, or long term health and environmental benefits. This industry needs to be reined in by a government with the guts to stand against it and stand up for this state's citizenry. Like coal, with the demand of gas beginning to fall due to reduced demand, these gas fields could become stranded assets which compromise any fall back position because of the ongoing damage that occurs to the environment and farming land once a test well is sunk. An international study has shown that test wells leak methane (a powerful Greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere, and are unable due to the unreliability and indiscriminate surfacing to guarantee the safety of any well, increasing the likelihood that gas could appear anywhere in the surrounding landscape.

Victoria has been sensible at holding the Gas industry at bay. It is hoped for the wealth, health and security of the future, it will continue to do so.

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File1:

File2:

File3: