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**From:** Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 July 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mrs Shiona Berry  
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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Onshore gas mining should not be considered an option on prime agricultural land.

My husband and I are dairy farm owners/operators in South Gippsland in Victoria. In Australia we produce the best quality milk in the world. We must abide by strict food safety regulations when producing milk. Overseas countries such as China are now importing Australian milk due to our strict food quality assurances, and because it is seen as clean and free from contaminants. They are paying up to \$10.00/litre for our fresh, clean milk. At this point, with little scientific evidence, we will not be able to maintain the CLEAN/GREEN image of our product if we have onshore gas mining. Gas mining that may contaminate our groundwater, and thus our stockwater, through processes such as fracking. A process of mining that could change the sustainability of our prime agricultural land for future generations, reducing our ability to feed ourselves, let alone export to other countries.

Our governments need to realise that of all the products in the world we utilise, food is an essential element to life. If we ruin the land, the water, how do we expect our future generations to feed themselves? There is just not enough evidence that this won't happen.

In New Zealand, there are milk companies who purchase the milk from the farm gate, who will not pick up milk from farms who have onshore gas mining on their properties. Our milk factory, Murray Goulburn, has expressed to us, that they would consider taking the same path as their New Zealand counterparts if it was to become an issue on the properties who supply them with milk.

If this became the case, it would make a property like ours worthless, as what would we do with our milk?

It is no one else's right to strip the landholder of their ability to function as a business.

Lastly, we here in Victoria, keep being told by the mining companies and governments how onshore gas mining doesn't impact the way farms are run. They are using the Queensland farms as examples. In Victoria,

and specifically in the high rainfall districts, like where we are located, the farms are tiny in comparison to our Qld counterparts. An average dairy farm may only be 300 acres, not 3000 or even 30000 acres. It would be impossible to maintain a fully functioning, rotational grazing system, where cattle are bought up to be milked twice per day, via a system of farm tracks, then sent off to a different paddock each time, if another complex system of mining tracks were added over the top of that. Too much of the property would be taken up with infrastructure, between the farmers own tracks, sheds, paddock dissections etc, plus the area taken up with a gas well, and the tracks to get the mining company out to the well. In 300 acres, it wouldn't leave much area for the cattle to actually graze, or the farmer to farm his land.

If I could be so bold, as to suggest that our politicians who get to decide as to whether onshore gas mining can take place in Victoria or not, go back to their childhood briefly. Go and get the Dr Sues book, called "The Lorax", sit down and read it, it wouldn't take them long. After reading it, think, is this really what we want to do with our country, our prime high producing agricultural land? Is this really what we want to do to our future generations?

History has shown us overtime, many mistakes that governments make, that are detrimental to both society and sustainability. Yes, there is millions, probably billions of dollars to be made from onshore gas mining, but is for the here and now. Once it is gone, it's gone. Please don't let the dollar signs be the only choice to be made, think about our future, our kids futures, stand up and make the decision to protect our country, our land, our water and our ultimate survival.

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File1:

File2:

File3: