

SUBMISSION - INQUIRY INTO UNCONVENTIONAL GAS IN VICTORIA

Thank you for the opportunity for submitting:

For an acceptable risk of not reaching 2 deg C there should be absolutely no NEW fossil fuel projects.

Gas is no longer a viable transition fuel, especially when methane emissions are factored in for the next 20 to 30 years of GHG concentrations - they are critical years globally and particularly for Australia. Stopping fugitive methane emissions from wells or the fracked land can never be guaranteed.

Unconventional Gas (UCG) mining will not suffice in solving unemployment given the types of jobs needed in the construction phase and the low number of permanent jobs the industry will need.

Gas prices paid by Australians will rise as wholesale prices are pegged to export prices. Gas use, as with electricity, is not rising, but falling, and with the right govt incentives, will continue to fall. Transition to all electricity is preferable as this can be fuelled with 100% renewables, and with smart demand-side use, energy efficiency home retrofits, the swing towards distributed (renewable) energy supply - and these are just some solutions I'm aware of.

Like most (dare I say all) fossil fuel extracting operations there is chemical pollution involved, be it short term air pollution, long-term air pollution (warming) or land contamination. The chemicals involved in UCG fracking seem particularly dangerous, with known carcinogens. Human health will undoubtedly be affected, let alone the surrounding environment. And please - the issue of biggest concern is that of water

contamination. Old well-established highly profitable coal mines in Victoria have not been adequately repatriated. How am I to expect that Victoria's ground water will be kept safe from well drilling with a dubious record of well shaft casing integrity during the life of any given well?

Victoria's countryside, east and west, needs to be kept safe and clean for food and fibre production, natural ecosystems and biodiversity, and tourism. Victorians will increasingly be travelling more locally for holidays when air travel costs increase. Keep our state beautiful.

Bronwyn Plarre

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