

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 July 2015 11:15 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Parliament Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Mining.

## To The Parliament Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Mining.

### Our Submission.

**Our names are Maggie & Gary Evison** [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

1. We bought our land here in 1991 as we have always loved this area, we lived and worked in Melbourne.

We had a house built and retired down here in May 2005, which had been our dream for many years.

We had never heard of Gas exploration in our area of any sort until 3 yrs ago. We went to an information night at Neighborhood House in Sale and where horrified to find out about the license over our area and the potential of Gas Fields in Seaspray. We went to Poowong's Declaration Day and where amazed at the commitment of the community against any unconventional Gas mining in their area, so before very long our communities of Seaspray, The Honeysuckles, Stradbroke, and Glomar Beach, all started to find out all we could about this industry and Lakes Oil so we Googled it. We looked at many web sites, in NSW, Queensland, America and other countries we even looked at the pro Gas Industry. We held public meetings in our community hall in Seaspray and had guest speakers to get information and ask lots of questions.

Gavin Mudd a Hydrologist, Felicity Milner from The Environmental Defenders Office, and a representative from The Doctors for the Environment were our speakers, and everyone there agreed to survey our community. On the 28th July 2012 98% of people in Seaspray and surrounds Declared themselves Gasfield Free.

The most important part of all this was the community spirit of people from all walks of life from Retiree's like ourselves, Farmers, Teachers, Hairdressers, Small business people, Tourism and many many more came together in a common cause that we did not want this industry in our area.

Seaspray has had a large funding from the Victorian Government totaling \$4.6 million Dollars to build a brand new state of the art Caravan Park which opened in September 2013, and development is still growing with a new Lifesaving Club being built at a cost of \$2.6 million dollars for stage 1, total costs will be more than \$3 million. With Seaspray celebrating our Centenary in March 2016, these facilities could be affected with the threat of Gasfields in our lovely town. Who would want to come to a Gasfield for a holiday?

2. What will happen to our land ? we already have Seismic problems along The Ninety mile beach, also the natural water flows into Lake Reeve which our land backs onto, and forms part of The Gippsland Lakes System.

The health impacts of this Industry to our communities, our local school, less than 1km from Wombat 1 and 100 meters from Merrimans Creek, our town's water supply.

The one and only time Mr Annells, and Tim O'Brien spoke with us was at the gate of Wombat 1 and they told us there would be 40 to 60 plus wells in production to make it worth their while, can you imagine all that infrastructure in our town of Seaspray.

We fought to get a moratorium put on and again to extend it to exploration, and the stress and anxiety it has put on our community and ourselves is huge, we all try look out for each other and

offer support when needed. Just recently when we were at the Inquiry in Sale on day two, myself [ Maggie ] got so upset listening to Rob Annells telling so many untruths. Especially about our School children. When they commenced production testing in May 2013, the children had to be calmed down by teachers after becoming quite distressed. One prep likened the sound to " rockets " while others thought a plane was about to crash over their heads. The letter was sent to Hon. David Davis Health Minister, Level 22, 50 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000. 23.05.2013. I Had to leave the room as I was so upset and a few of my friends came to sit with me. It effects us all in one way or another.

**3.** Through all our community meetings and concerns we have learned a lot about the regulations our food producers are obligated by law to make sure what they produce is safe to consume with no containments.

As consumers this is why we strongly believe that Onshore Unconventional Gas Mining cannot coexist with existing land and water users, when Food and Fibre exports in Victoria in October 2014 were \$11.4 billion in 2013-14 a rise of \$1.2 billion or 12% on the previous year, reflecting the good health of the rural sector, more than NSW, and Queensland.

What guarantees and assurances can the Victorian Government give us , that our Food, Land, and Air will remain safe?

Our home and land is our investment, what will happen to our Real Estate values, and depreciation of land values and our equity in our home?

**4.** We have been told repeatedly by politicians that there is more than 30yrs of Gas off shore. According to the Australian Energy Market there is no Gas shortage in Victoria or any where else in Australia so there is no need to risk the health of crucial farmland just to extract gas we do not need.

No amount of Gas production will reduce the prices the consumers have to pay. Gas prices have increased because LNG exports from the East Coast have linked us to International markets where prices are higher. A Victorian Gas Industry will not save consumers more. The best solution for Consumers to reduce gas bills, is through energy efficiency initiative.

Finally we would like the Parliamentary Inquiry to recommend a Ban on Onshore Unconventional Gas Mining in Victoria as we do not not believe it can coexist with our Ninety Mile Beach, our farming communities and Tourism in our lovely area. The risks to our Water, Land, Air, and Health is to much of a risk.

We would like to Support a representative from Gasfield Free Seaspray to make a presentation at a Hearing.

Thank You.

Regards Maggie & Gary Evison.  
9th July 2015