

Dear Keir,

Thank you for your reply, my contact details are as follows:

Mrs Kerry McLean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you.

From: Kerry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 12:32 AM
To: EPC
Subject: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas (UCG)

Dear Committee Members,

I am **OPPOSED TO** any form of unconventional gas mining including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification in Victoria and Australia.

My name is Kerry McLean and I live in Portland Victoria. I work in the welfare field and am the sole parent of teenage children. My family were farmers in the Western District.

I have never written a submission before and am not sure that I've done it properly. I've done it because I'm very anxious and worried that unconventional gas mining will go ahead in Victoria. I am totally opposed to this form of mining and am painfully aware that many in my community have no awareness, no care or a general attitude of "theres nothing I can do about it anyway." I am hoping that our "NO GASFIELDS" protests, our letters to the ministers, premiers and opposition, and our yellow "LOCK THE GATE" signs will indicate our strong feelings against this process and these companies.

I am concerned about unconventional gas mining because of and not limited too the contamination of water, the human and animal health risks, and the reduced asset value of land within the radius of mining activities.

The Glenelg Shire where I live, has taken the strongest stance of any south-west council against fracking and coal seam gas. Councillors unanimously backed a motion to declare the shire an "unconventional gasfield-free zone". They have listened to our community.

Quite frankly I can't see the point in wasting time and money on an inquiry when there is a ton of evidence from Australia and overseas to indicate that this process is harmful on so many levels.

The benefit of a TOTAL BAN include financial security for existing farming and tourism businesses and therefore making Victoria more attractive to investment in these areas. Our state would also be seen as more attractive to renewable energy investments.

I address the terms of reference as follows:

1. The prospectivity of Victoria's geology for commercial sources of onshore unconventional gas;

I believe that the perceived financial benefits of this industry would be outweighed by the costs via welfare support of displaced communities and health care costs associated with contamination.

2. The environmental, land productivity and public health risks, risk mitigations and residual risks of onshore unconventional gas activities;

Check the massive amount of information online which all suggest that the risks are catastrophic. Why is our government ignoring "BEST PRACTICE" from overseas?

3. The coexistence of onshore unconventional gas activities with existing land and water uses, including

a) agricultural production and domestic and export market requirements;

The contamination from the waste water, and gasses puts our agri production at risk. Why would we as a country risk contamination of our food and therefore potential destruction of our domestic and export markets? These need to be protected and enable a secure future in the industry.

(b) the legal rights of property owners and the impact on property values; and

(c. any implications for local and regional development, investment and jobs;

The legal rights of property owners appear to be reduced when they give permission for gas exploration which then enables gas companies to take full advantage and do what they want. The legal requirements of distance from residences and what liberties the gas companies are able to take have not been regulated enough. The Gas Companies have huge legal teams to beat the land owner at every turn.

I am also concerned about the reduced asset value of farm land when there is a mine in the area. It means that when the farmer has to leave the farm they are either unable to sell, or have to sell at a hugely reduced price. This in turn means that they have no capital to move on to another project or asset for retirement.

The mines use a huge amount of water in the fracking process, which means a lower water table, and less water for farming enterprises. Also as the water supplies are contaminated there is the worry that the produce is not of the required high standard. As farmers are unable to produce at the same level, their income reduces

which in turn means less money to spend within the community. Communities are destroyed because the mines reduce opportunities. So when we are told that mining creates jobs, this is not true. It causes more job losses than it creates.

4. The ability of potential onshore unconventional gas resources contributing to the State's overall energy sources including —

(a) an ability to provide a competitive source of energy and non energy inputs for Victorian industries;

(b) an affordable energy source for domestic consumers;

Unconventional gases are harder to extract than conventional gas. The energy costs, the amounts of water used and the costs to communities, industry and agricultural production all dispute the idea that it's a competitive and affordable source of energy. The intention to export the extracted gas also refutes the claim that it will be more affordable for domestic users as the costs will be linked to international markets.

(c) carbon dioxide emissions from these sources;

The air pollution from unconventional gas mining puts humans, animals and plant life at unacceptable risk. The medical costs of diagnosing and treating unknown conditions would be detrimental in that the cost to the government will increase. We as a country have the opportunity to use renewable energy sources which DON'T use our resources and DON'T cause unacceptable emissions.

5. The resource knowledge requirements and policy and regulatory safeguards that would be necessary to enable exploration and development of onshore unconventional gas resources:

The industry has had a long time to refine and prove that their practices are safe and they have failed. The risks are too great.

(a) further scientific work to inform the effective regulation of an onshore unconventional gas industry, including the role of industry and government, particularly in relation to rigorous monitoring and enforcement, and the effectiveness of impact mitigation responses;

I doubt that further scientific work would result in effective regulation of the industry. The only way this industry would stay honest and do the least amount of harm is if there was regulations in place for mandatory compensation funds and for there to be legal avenues to sue the companies when we become ill, lose our livelihood, or our assets. It would also be beneficial to have some regulations in place for the removal and clean up of the infrastructure in the event that this very harmful and destructive industry goes ahead in Victoria. I AM HOPING THAT it does NOT.

(b) performance standards for managing environmental and health risks, including water quality, air quality, chemical use, waste disposal, land

contamination and geotechnical stability;

Evidence suggests that the mining companies are great with lip service, but have not come up with viable performance standards for managing the environment. We are all at risk and the only way to cancel this risk is to BAN unconventional gas mining.

My concern is also for the earth's crust, how does this practice impact the stability of the earth? Scientific articles I've read state that there are significant increases in earthquakes in mining areas. I DO NOT want this for our country, and especially in our highly populated Victoria.

6. Relevant domestic and international reviews and inquiries covering the management of risks for similar industries including, but not limited to, the Victorian Auditor-General Office's report Unconventional Gas: Managing Risks and Impacts (contingent upon this report being presented to Parliament) and other reports generated by the Victorian community and stakeholder engagement programs.

I'm sorry, I haven't kept a catalogue of reports and studies, but any number are available online. Interestingly if you search "unconventional gas mining" it brings up many many warnings.

Look, I found these references:

National Toxic Network: www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Submission-SA-Fracking-Inquiry.pdf seems like unconventional gas extraction releases hundreds of BAD chemicals (and their impacts)

Doctors for the Environment Australia: [Topics | Healthy Planet, Healthy People | DEA Reports on health impacts of unconventional gas](#)

Dr McCarron ► [Dr Geralyn McCarron Health Impacts of CSG - YouTube](#) Concise and powerful summary of health impacts including her original research in Tara on affected Australian families

Lock the Gate

[Reading - Lock the Gate Alliance](#) basic fact sheet about unconventional gas

https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/182/attachments/original/1429576918/6_READ-WRITE_-TALK_IT.pdf?1429576918 communications primer, plus useful list of sites and a horror pic of describing spatial intensity in the gas fields

New York

The big survey that led to fracking being banned in New York State https://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturi

[ng.pdf](#)

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New York

The big survey that lead to fracking being banned in New York State https://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf

Pennsylvania

DEP finally releases list revealing 243 cases where drilling contaminated water wells [Controversies - Pennsylvania Finally Releases List of 243 Cases of Water Contaminated by Oil and Gas Drilling - AllGov - News](#)

UK

[Reports & Evidence | Frack Off](#) Useful references here

Regards

Kerry McLean

PORTLAND VICTORIA