

Submission to government review panel re unconventional gas exploration/extraction in Victoria.

9th July 2015

I have lived in the Glenelg Shire for thirty eighty years and am concerned about proposed unconventional gas operations in Victoria.

I would like to know how you will deal with the contamination of our potable underground water that is used by the residents of Portland and Heywood.

The four rivers in this area all flow into Portland Bay threatening fish stock there. The chemical contamination and seepage into our rivers would be catastrophic

Our Commercial Fishing Industry that supplies Melbourne with much of its catch, could be drastically threatened by chemical pollution of their Environment and breeding grounds via fresh-water springs that local fishermen know of in the ocean off Portland.

I am also concerned about the threat to our wildlife that live in or depend on these freshwater and marine environments.

I am concerned about the effects of UCG mining would have on our wildlife that depend on the native vegetation in our area to survive. Many species are unique to Australia and are under pressure from various sources such as climate change, habitat loss or modification and UCG mining would add another significant threat to their future. Constant light, traffic, land clearing, additional roads, gas burn offs that can last from a couple of days to months at a time, are some of the impacts on their feeding, breeding and sleep patterns.

The financial rewards of this UCG mining misadventure will not benefit anyone in this generation except the mining companies and has the very real potential of leaving a massive environmental disaster for future generations.

Many other countries and jurisdictions have already legislated to prevent this very dangerous industry from becoming established, and I trust the Victorian Government will show similar foresight and courage and protect its clean, green, long-term food producing land from what has been shown overseas and elsewhere in Australia to be a very hazardous and unhealthy and in the long-term, costly enterprise.

Ivor Graney

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