

Graeme Stockton
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[REDACTED]**Re: Submission into Onshore Unconventional Gas Mining**

Dear Inquiry,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a submission. I live rurally in the hinterland of Torquay which is part of the Surf Coast Shire. The best part of living here is the natural environment. I do not under any circumstances support onshore unconventional gas exploration.

Apart from permanent risks to aquifers and surface water; and as well as potential damage to farmland soils, jobs and forced intrusion on to properties and the increased necessary road networks, noise, lowered property values, disturbance to nature, risk to export industry etc, etc., it is clear this technology is not going to solve the monumental challenges of the 21st century. Simply, onshore unconventional gas mining is not a technology to solve Climate Change, nor is it a long term renewable energy solution to the looming fossil fuel energy crisis as can be seen by what is unfolding in the United States with many 'plays' exhausting resource rapidly.

Further, impacts to regions in the United States and in Queensland have been well documented on free to air television and in documentaries here and in the States. The companies that wish to pursue this technology are not interested in the public good; they are interested in maximising their own wealth. They also do not live locally so are less likely to be concerned about the long term legacy of what they leave behind.

The Surf Coast has recently made a huge step forward with the closure of the Anglesea brown coal mine. There are many people in this community that are protective of the environment and respectful of nature's right to co-exist. We have a great chance to work on our 'Sustainability plan' as well as dramatically reduce our carbon footprint as part of our resolve to seriously tackle Climate

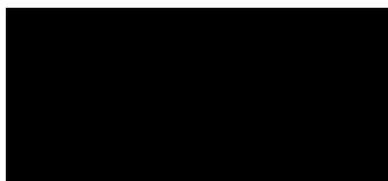
Change. Onshore unconventional gas mining will be about as welcome here as the Ebola virus.

In summary, onshore gas exploration is just magnifying all of humanity's problems into the 21st century.

- It is a technology that is hard on the earth and the earth's planetary life support systems, regardless of climate change.
- However, it will undermine future generations, particularly as climate change issues accelerate.
- It encourages us to rely on fossil fuels at a time when we should be pulling out all stops to invest in renewable energy solutions.
- It is the kind of technology that makes it harder to win the public debate on climate change because if successful it provides a legal platform for climate forcing technologies to continue.

As the Panel can see, I do not favour onshore gas exploration. I thank you for your time in reading my submission.

Sincerely,



Graeme Stockton