

[REDACTED]

From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 12:35 PM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mr Iain Donald
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Dear Inquiry Members;

My name is Iain Donald.

I'm a Father, Grandfather, and I've worked in building industry supply, occupational health and safety over many years.

I do not support any form of unconventional gas mining, including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification. Over and over again, these forms of mining have resulted in significant adverse environmental effects.

In spite of often strict operating conditions imposed on CSG mining operations, agricultural land and water tables have been poisoned, and people living in those regions have suffered long-term harm to their health. In any case, all too often we hear of companies failing to meet reporting and operational protocols. Based on history, it's impossible to have confidence these problems could be prevented by even the most stringent operational requirements.

The ABC report link below details the wide variation of standards and the paltry fines received for breaches.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-05/santos-leak-tintsfield/5504110>

The EPA (NSW) report on the Santos Eastern Pty Ltd (Santos) Narrabri coal seam gas operations in 2013 and 2015 show that the when spills happen it takes a long time to respond. By the time the observations are made, the damage to the environment is done. I don't believe this is worth the risk.
<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia15051501.htm>

There are also issues of methane and other gas leaks and releases, which can quickly and completely undo any supposed climate change emissions gains of CSG mining. The old mines can continue to release gasses

and poisons for decades after the machines have moved on.

Farming and CSG are not a good mix. In many cases people may have lived on the land and farmed for generations; in others people have moved to a place to follow a dream of a clean, low-pollution rural life. Probably all hope to pass on something good to future generations. None expected to have this all put at risk by such a harmful, destructive process as CSG mining.

The legal rights of property owners and residents of country towns and regions to determine what happens with CSG is a fraught area. CSG wells could have serious adverse impacts on property values, agricultural productivity and sales. It could drive away tourism and generally reduce the desirability of an area, causing serious downturns in investment and jobs - once the machines have packed up and moved on.

We have clean energy options – wind, solar and others – that do not carry these pollution risks. As a state we should be investing in these – and protecting our farms, productive agricultural land, and our environmental assets. In a world where food production and access to clean drinking water will soon be seriously challenged by climate change, we need to protect and cherish ALL our agricultural assets. Our grandchildren will thank us for it.

Thanking you for your kind attention

Yours sincerely

Iain Donald

--

File1:

File2:

File3: