

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

Victoria doesn't need an unconventional gas industry to supply energy. Unconventional gas is not a renewable source of energy. In fact it is polluting, contributes to climate change, and is not required as a fuel to transition between fossil fuels and renewable energy. It is possible to make a planned transition to 100% renewables in Victoria without the need for gas as a 'bridging' fuel, but we need to start investing in real renewable energy sources like solar and wind power now.

By supporting and growing our renewable energy industry, we can provide more jobs that are future-proofed and lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria. Growth in our renewable energy industry provides a valuable opportunity for re-skilling and redeploying workers who need help to transition from traditional energy production roles. It is especially important as there are now more people employed installing solar panels in Victoria than in coal generation.

Other jurisdictions like New York City and Ohio have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas, and Victoria should follow suit. This is something our community wants.

Another important reason for a permanent ban on coal seam gas is that it carries massive and proven risks for the environment and our health. It threatens land productivity, agricultural industries, our water supply, our communities and public health, and the risks are far too great to be mitigated or outweighed by any benefits.

As a concerned citizen I expect the Victorian Government will respect the wishes of Victorian communities, take on board the science and ban coal seam gas exploration and production in Victoria. I also expect the Victorian Government to do more to grow the renewable energy sector and help ensure communities once reliant on fossil fuel production can transition to a clean energy future.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission on this important issue.

Alex Schlotzer

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