

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. Unconventional gas is not a renewable source of energy - it is polluting, and is not required as a fuel to transition between fossil fuels and renewables. We can 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 renewables like solar and wind power now.
- We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to provide employment. Supporting and growing our renewables industry will provide more jobs that are future-proofed and lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria. Growth in our renewables industry provides a valuable opportunity for re-skilling and redeploying workers who need help to transition from traditional energy production roles – 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, as this is what the community wants.
- Coal seam gas carries massive and proven risks for the environment and health. It threatens our environment, 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.
- Victorian communities don't want unconventional gas. At least 30 communities have already declared themselves gasfield-free, and the number continues to grow. The Government needs to respect the wishes of Victorian communities.

I have a number of family and friends living rural, running both large scale and hobby farms for their livelihood. Their way of life and our food chain should not be put under threat for the sake of a few dollars that will only benefit large energy corporations who barely pay their fair share to governments or the populace. There are known chemical containment risks for the sludge left behind also for ground water, with which the whole ecosystem requires to thrive. Mining corporations have left areas of Papua New Guinea inhabitable by any reasonable standards, we can stop this from happening in our own backyard. We need areas that can be settled/cultivated/grazed readily not turn them into a Mad Max styled wasteland the moment a flood comes along and containment ponds are allowed to be released into the likes of the Murray River as per the NSW concessions to companies allow.

A grid connected suburb of adequate solar paneling on each house would be more than sufficient to power locales in my opinion. Time to find a way for the wholesaler and populace to work together for the simple reason that all humans have equal rights to the basic essentials of life especially in this technological modern world.

The greens and labor duo are so ready to lock up ready access to parcels of Public forests from enthusiast and special interest groups, yet are willing to have such a threat to life and ecosystem take place for the sake of big business and the few dollars they deem fit to pay in taxes/licensing. If there is true care of the country at heart then all should be considered equally. You cannot expect from these companies to adequately protect let alone clean up National/State reserves from disasters created upstream.

Time and again big business has proven their lack of gumption to clean/protect the locales they operate in. The Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil "spill", the OK Tedi mine, James Hardie asbestos responsibilities.

Only after threat of and actual legal litigation do they ever make a gesture or weak effort to live up to those responsibilities. History also shows what they are Court Ordered to do and how much they actually meet those obligations are also miles apart.

Labor and the Greens can stop this before the hazardous mess even threatens our community.

A set in stone, state wide ban on CSG for the next 100 years as commitment to the people, flora and fauna, of the land both Original and current inhabitants. including a ban on the release of chemicals upstream from NSW into the Murray/Darling System and any penalties incurred should be big enough to deter any big business and NSW state operations from allowing such disasters from occurring. This is what I feel is required.

European countries don't want it, American cities and states don't want it. Why are we even considering it ?

**Andrew Creek**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]