

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am making a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas. I support a permanent ban on unconventional gas in Victoria, including coal seam gas, tight gas and shale gas, for reasons of environmental impact, climate change, and human health.

Unconventional gas is not a renewable source of energy. As unconventional gas is not required as a fuel to cover a period of transition between fossil fuels and renewable energy, we do not need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. Victoria can make a planned transition to 100% renewables without developing a polluting unconventional gas industry that would contribute to climate change. Many Victorians have already voted on this by turning to solar power voluntarily. We need to invest strongly now in renewables such as wind and solar power.

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.

An unconventional gas industry is not necessary for promoting employment growth; this can occur more effectively in the renewable energy sector and with more long-term sustainability.

Many Victorian communities have already spoken out against unconventional gas in their regions. Victoria needs to listen to their voices.

Anne Elvey

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