

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I do not support the use of unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. Coal seam gas carries huge risks for both the community's health and the environment. It threatens agriculture, land productivity and water supply.

Victorian communities don't want unconventional gas. At least 30 communities have already declared themselves gasfield-free, and the Government needs to respect the wishes of Victorian communities.

Investment in renewables will provide more jobs 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.

Other countries have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas, and Victoria should follow suit, as this is what the community wants.

Yours sincerely

Anthea Merewether

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