

To the Environment and Planning Committee

Dear elected representatives of Victorians

I welcome the opportunity to have input into this important review.

I am an ordinary citizen with no particular scientific qualifications, however over the last decade I have followed the unconventional gas issue very closely, initially in the United States and then in Australia. I have taken the trouble to research it very extensively.

A brief summary of my concerns are:

- 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, contributes to climate change, 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. This move is supported by the latest peer-reviewed climate science which is screaming out that we must leave all fossil fuels in the ground.
- 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 France, New York City and Ohio have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas, and Victoria should follow suit. It must be realised that this isn't just a plot against the industry - it was very carefully considered and based on independent scientific evidence.
- 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. This concern is unprecedented in that it comes from a wide cross section of all communities, many of whom don't normally see eye to eye on any issue. This makes a lie of the unconventional gas industry who delight in saying that people against their operations are in the minority and have extremist views.

As members of this review committee, you all have great responsibility to make sure that this review is truly independent. This industry are very used to getting their way and has a lot of political influence. Please don't be distracted by this as you review the evidence. They have a very poor track record for the way they treat communities in which they operate. They often overstate the potential resource, they don't fully disclose the chemicals they use and any research they disclose is industry funded. This has led to them not being trusted

as their main motive is to make money. The stakes are very high, but for them, it's only money.

I welcome this opportunity

Yours Sincerely

Anthony Gleeson

