

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I live on a picturesque 18 acre farm in Rosebrook, South-West Victoria with my husband and 2 children. We moved here 4 years ago to enjoy the fresh air, open spaces and all the good and healthy things that living in the country can offer, whilst being within a short driving distance to a number of small towns that provide all the services that we need.

The idea that Coal Seam Gas Drilling could possibly happen anywhere near a place where people live, let alone my own family, is one that my husband and I are extremely opposed to. We are also strongly opposed to Coal Seam Gas Drilling happening anywhere where farmers are growing food, whether it be involving crops or animals.

Here are some reasons why:

We are concerned that Coal Seam Gas Drilling could result in contamination of ground water and air quality. Even if the risk is very minimal, it is still a possibility. Once it happens, it is then too late. The risk is not worth what could be gained. The effects on people, animals, lifestyles, lives and livelihoods could be catastrophic.

Imagine my kids playing under the bore water sprinkler on the lawn in summer only to find the water has toxic chemicals in it and they become ill (or worse) from that. Imagine our chooks, ducks, sheep and cows drinking that contaminated water from the stock troughs and getting sick or dying. Imagine the many dairy farmers who run thousands of cows in this district having the same problem. Imagine watering our vegetables from the bore water hose that we always use and soaking our vegetables with toxic chemicals that we then eat and share with other people to eat. Imagine the potato and other vegetable and crop farmers in this district having the same problem. Imagine flammable gas coming out of our toilet that uses bore water to flush! Imagine our peaceful countryside view ruined with the sight of a coal seam gas drilling site. Imagine the air quality being contaminated and the health of people in the area suffering because of it. Imagine earthquakes and sinkholes occurring as a result of interference with underground water, earth, gas and rock. Imagine the groundwater, which is the drinking water supply for the township of nearby Port Fairy, getting contaminated and the possible effects on a whole township of people.

From what I have seen on TV documentaries and read in newspapers, these are very real and valid worries to have when considering the kinds of impacts that Coal Seam Gas Drilling may have on an environment and the people that live there.

Surely, the long term health and safety of Australia's people, as well as the future of the Australian food farming industry, is vastly more important than the short term financial gain for a few and the extraction of a non-renewable energy source. Especially when there are so many other safer renewable energy sources that could be further harnessed instead.

We sincerely hope that you will stop all Coal Seam Gas Drilling. It just isn't necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Carli Reeve and Stuart Reeve and our children, Indih (6 years) and Johnnie (1 year).