

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- Victoria does not need an unconventional gas industry to supply energy. Unconventional gas is not renewable - it is polluting and it has been shown with copious amounts of proof (in Australia and USA) that it contaminates ground water, a resource of great importance in Australia.
- If it's employment you are after, do not look to an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to provide it. 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 both at present and into the future.

**Carolyn Hanna**

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