

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- Victoria needs CLEAN energy...not an unconventional gas industry. 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.
- Far more employment will be created by supporting and growing our renewables industry than by supporting unconventional gas - 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.
- Surveys show that the community wants more renewable energy, and the large uptake of rooftop solar in Victoria is proof of that. Lets take a leaf out of the environmental book followed by jurisdictions like New York City and Ohio which have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas.
- Health costs are already a major strain on government budgets, We don't need coal seam gas with its massive and proven risks for the environment and health to add to the potential health costs. Unconventional gas 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.
- The Government needs to respect the wishes of Victorian communities which have clearly said that they don't want unconventional gas. At least 30 communities have already declared themselves gasfield-free, and the number continues to grow.

Chris Trueman

