

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- We don't need a coal seam gas industry in Victoria to meet energy needs. We can make a transition to 100% renewables in Victoria but we need to start investing in renewables like solar and wind power now.
- Supporting and expanding 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.
- Let's not be twenty years behind the times, following the leads of other countries after they have abandoned practices. Many people supported coal seam gas in the USA but now they have taken on board the very real objections to it. New York City and Ohio now have permanent bans on coal seam gas.
- Coal seam gas has huge and proven risks for the environment and health. It threatens our environment, land productivity, agricultural industries, our water supply, our communities and public health. Will our children and grandchildren thank us for taking such risks, for so little benefit?
- 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.

Christine Simpson

