

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

My name is Craig Webb. I live in Portland Victoria.  
And I'm strongly opposed to onshore unconventional gas extraction.

I have looked at the so called benefits of the industry.  
And have looked had and long.  
This industry has proven it's self to be an absolute toxic danger/disaster where ever it's been undertaken.  
In America the science is in on it.  
New York State banned it officially 3 days ago after near on 11years of investigations and moratorium's.  
France has banned it out right.  
Why is the Australia government following America blindly into an industry "Proven" to be a human and environmental catastrophe?

Please Victoria, have the good sense and human decency to study as many independent scientific reports/studies into this subject.  
Not industry data. Well, I'm sure you have to look at all the data.  
But just remember, the people Living in the man made hell's(Gasfields) who's voices have been supressed already by the American official's. EPA in Pennsylvania, etc... were told not to right down complaints etc, you need to study soo many aspects of this to get a full and rounded view. And I can tell you, you will NEVER be able to do that in just a few weeks/months. It should take YEARS to fully investigate ALL the Data available, to make a FULLY informed and Fair VIEW on this subject.

Rural Victorians such as me and my family and friends deserve that.

We should never be a pawn in a game between you and the gas companies.  
Look up in Queensland. Look at Tara, Chinchilla, Kogan.  
Take a trip up there. Independently. Not with the QLD Government. Not with a gas company. Just go and visit the farmers. Knock on their doors and ASK them.

And the only conclusion you'll come to, is a Complete BAN on this shocking industry.....

- 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.
- 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 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.

Thanks.  
Craig Webb

**Craig Webb**

