

I would like to make a submission to the above enquiry. I am a small scale horticulturalist in central Victoria, and I am totally opposed to any form of on-shore unconventional gas exploration or mining in Victoria for the following reasons:

1. There is significant evidence that gas extraction will pollute the water table. In the driest continent on Earth, due to become drier with climate change, this is not a legacy we should be leaving future generations.
2. The population of Victoria is set to increase dramatically. Productive agricultural land should be reserved for food production, not used for the expensive and disruptive extraction of yet another fossil fuel.
3. It impinges on the rights of rural land holders to use their land for agricultural or other purposes. There are alternatives to fossil fuels. There are no alternatives to food.
4. We should be concentrating our efforts on developing renewable energy sources. Victoria has great potential in this area. Disrupting farm land to extract fossil fuel makes no sense in the long term.
5. The possibility that land might be taken for gas extraction will discourage investment in rural Victoria and lower property values.
6. The infrastructure required will make agriculture or horticulture on extraction sites impossible and ruin the livelihood of the farmers, thus leading to a decline in rural communities.
7. The infrastructure required is incompatible with tourism, on which many rural communities depend.

Given the problems that have arisen in the United States from unconventional extraction methods, I see no reason why Victoria needs to go down this path. We have ample opportunities for renewable energy development, which will provide sustainable economic benefits for generations

to come, not one-off profits from a process which will destroy future food supplies.

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