

Dear Environment and Planning Committee,

I do not support an unconventional gas industry in Victoria.

Fracking has already shown itself, both overseas and interstate, to result in high levels of pollution and danger to health and safety-

- * fugitive methane emissions - 40 times worse than CO2 as a GHG - outweigh any purported environmental benefits and contribute to global warming;
- * contaminated groundwater and surface water;
- * the need to dispose of massive amounts of chemical-contaminated fracking fluids;
- * fracking has caused earthquakes in several US states.

This gas is not needed as a "transition" to 100% renewables. We have the tech now to move from fossil fuels such as extracted gas to clean, green renewables, such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal, etc. I invested in the community-owned Hepburn Wind scheme because I care about my kids' future. We need to move away NOW from fossil fuels.

We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to provide employment. We should be turning the Latrobe Valley into a hub of manufacturing for the renewable industry, as well as mine rehabilitation. So too Geetroit - the old Ford factory should be retooled for production of components for the renewable industry - turbines, solar panels, etc, etc. Let's use our already established manufacturing skills to clean and future-proof our economy. Victoria could be a world leader in green manufacturing.

Unconventional gas extraction will not result in lower energy bills as most will be sold overseas at inflated global prices.

Victorians don't want unconventional gas extraction. 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.

Glenn Michael

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