

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

As a 55 year old, I have enjoyed camping outdoors in the pristine environment found throughout Victoria, NSW and Queensland. My family has our own garden patch, lived in the country with water tanks as water supply and in the city, so would say I have intimate relationship with land, and basically understand the cause and effect of my actions in my home and garden.

The same can be said of this State and Country. Everything we do will have an effect, and every effect both positive and negative are only the result of our actions. I can't begin to describe how I felt when I first heard fracking was occurring in the Otways, actually, I thought it was a joke, so I despair for the impact on future generations who will be left with cleared land, redundant farmland, contaminated waterways and soil.

I have a conservative approach to life. Nothing dangerous, nothing fancy, and frankly fracking is tantamount to social, economic and environmental terrorism, when you look at THE EFFECTS. I have spent hours researching coal seam gas around the world, and I have learnt;

The FINANCIAL BENEFITS to Farmers, Communities, State Government and Gas Companies are SUBSTANTIAL.

The FINANCIAL BENEFITS to Farmers, Communities, State Governments and Gas Companies are SHORT TERM.

The ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT from the gas seepage, heavy metals used in the fracking to ground water, steams, dams, lakes IS SUBSTANTIAL and IS LONG TERM.

We only need to look to the United States, where fracking/hydraulic fracturing has been a slowly evolving as a method of gas production over many years.

AT THIS POINT, I VOTE TO TO LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WE CAN STOP FOR A MOMENT LONGER...

For future generations, CONSIDER the LONG TERM IMPACTS ON the HEALTH AND WELLBEING and ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGES.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING this wonderful pristine Victorian Environment, and PLEASE hold off issuing of future licenses, or OF COURSE, YOU CAN JUST take the money.

**Helen Downie**

