

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I applaud the Victorian government's temporary ban on coal seam gas and fracking. The next important step is to permanently ban this unconventional gas industry. I raise the following compelling reasons for keeping Victoria frack-free.

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.

With climate change being the biggest issue facing humanity today, we need to plan for transition to 100% renewable energy like solar and wind power now. Unconventional gas has no place in this transition as it is not renewable, it is polluting and it contributes to climate change.

Supporting and growing our renewables industry will provide more jobs that will lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria. Workers who are now in traditional fossil fuel energy production jobs can be re-skilled and redeployed to work in the renewables industry. Already there are more people employed installing solar panels in Victoria than in coal generation.

The government needs to respect the wishes of Victorian communities, of which a growing number are declaring themselves gasfield-free. 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.

I urge you to put Victoria's environmental, social and economic future foremost in your inquiry into coal seam gas.

Jane Leitinger

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.