

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- Victorians, like me, are voting with their rooftops. We'd much rather have a solar panel on our house, or a wind turbine in our neighbourhood, or some other (potential!) form of renewable energy provision in our vicinity, than fracking. Who wouldn't?

- We are fortunate in having had a chance to see the horrible outcomes possible with unconventional gas and fracking. People from places which have suffered as a direct and proven consequence have passed on their experience, even travelled to warn others. They are credible witnesses and no credible account of the benefits of fracking has countered their evidence. Obviously fracking only really benefits companies which profit from its incursions, and they have focussed their attentions on talking up their work to people in government. Why else would such dangerous and destructive mining of our countryside ever be seriously considered?

- 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.

- I want my governments to get serious finally about promoting renewable energy. Please!

Janet Hall

