

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am a hard working man with a young family to support, I am gravely fearful of our future if the coal industry gets it's way and comes to my town of Byaduk VIC. Currently there is an exploration license in this area. Judging by what has occurred in Tara QLD and other areas of Australia and America I am completely opposed to this dirty unsafe and unhealthy mining practice. As a single income family with my partner staying at home with our 9 month old boy we cannot afford for our house price to drop nor can we move away from the area if the land and air becomes polluted and is no longer safe for our child to grow up in. I have done extensive research on fracking and believe it to be extremely unsafe for the environment, our water, community and health. I implore you to listen to the people on this matter and ban fracking once and for all! Surely the people of Australia should come before the greed of the mining companies. It is clear that no one wants this mining in Australia and I fear that the greed of a few will destroy families, the land and ultimately our beautiful country. It is the duty of our government to protect its citizens and I fear that greed is pushing this industry forward and not caring about what this will do to people's lives. Please, don't let this awful industry ruin the Australian way of life. Protect our families, Protect our land, Protect our Country!

- 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.

**Jason Watt**  
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