

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- 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. Pricing structures need to be more encouraging for solar take-up. For us, the feed-in tariff is only 1/7 of the price we pay for grid-purchased power (overnight or dull days). "Free" solar power is illusory.
- 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. Jobs from CSG are likely to be short term and few in number. Worse, it's likely any profits will go offshore, as profitable companies are usually taken over.
- 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. Just because we can't presently quantify harm doesn't mean it is not present. Scientific proof is notoriously slow when government/companies want it to be.
- Gippsland's environment and people have suffered more than enough degradation to provide cheap resources for city consumers. That's bad enough, but when we're exploited to meet the energy needs of overseas users and investors, that's just intolerable, and criminally short-sighted. Clean air, water and productive pasture are priceless. City-based policy-makers need to remember these "free" things like clean land and pure water are priceless, and once they're lost, they're gone forever. Present and future communities can never be adequately compensated for the degradation. It's the death of 1,000 cuts.
- 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. You only have to look at the number of yellow "Lock the Gate" triangles on gates and vehicles to gauge community resentment.
- Allow farmers the right to veto exploration for CSG, or any other resources on or under their land. Land ownership should entitle owners to control what happens on or under their farms. The Crown should not be able to push landowners aside for multinational miners. Who says the Crown makes decisions "for the greater good" when the supply of beautiful agricultural land and unspoiled bushland is finite? Governments

need to look ahead and conserve the land we need for future food production, to say nothing of protecting native flora and fauna.

**NO COAL SEAM GAS FOR VICTORIA!!!**

**Jenny Tame**

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