

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

- As well as the points raised below do you realise the HUGE amount of water required for the fracking process? Our precipitous water table is currently stressed because of agricultural use, further large scale usage will stress it even further, not to mention the risk of contamination from both the fracking process, and also from the dams set up to contain the water tailings! The risk to our agricultural land is far too great a risk to take!!

The other risk is from failures of the dams and underground leakages well after the gas had been extracted and the gas companies are well gone. Who picks up the bill then when 20 years down the track??! What insurance would be in place then, should an environmental catastrophe occur then???

- 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.

**John Graham**

