

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.
- 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.
- Jurisdictions in the United States, 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. There are many other examples from around the world where CSG has been and is being prohibited for a range of reasons.
- 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. Investing in fossil fuels is an investment in the past and dying industries. The only rational investment for the future is renewable energy sources.

I ask you to do everything in your power to reduce further contributions to climate change and the destrubtion/contamination of our environment. I further ask you to do everything in your power to facilitate the move to renewable energy sources in the fastest possible manner. Thank you.

John Chadderton

