

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2015 9:21 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

My name is Kym and I'm the mother of a 9 month old boy Edward. We live in Byaduk where there is currently an exploration licence to mine for CSG. When I first heard the news that mining was trying to get a foothold in the area I knew it was bad news, I'd seen on the news people in QLD rallying and fighting against the Industry. I knew it was a bad thing in terms of environmental impact on the soil and ground water but I wasn't fully aware of just how devastating this industry was until I researched more. The more I looked into it, the more scared I got for my families future. I was then invited to watch a documentary called Frackman, and then my terror got real. It's too late for us to sell up and move, our property would never sell with the licence in place. I will never expose my son to the health problems that have plagued the poor people of Tara QLD so that would mean abandoning our property and renting somewhere which I can tell you on one income of minimum wage to pay for a useless mortgage and a rental will crush our family. I will fight this, our community will fight this. I won't even go into how bad this is for all the communities that are currently under the eye of the mining companies not to mention the devastating environmental impact and what that would do to our farmers. We need our farmers to survive, they are the life blood of this once great country. Australia is being sold, sold to foreigners who would see to exploit this land for greed. I vehemently oppose CSG and anything to do with it and I will fight with everything I've got to protect this land, my community and my family. I am not alone.

- 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.

**Kym Monaghan**

