

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2015 8:39 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I will open by saying that my sister and her family, and a number of our relatives, live and work near or on the Tar Sands in Canada. Canadians have first-hand experience of fracking and other noxious mining practises which have rendered the environment and the land surface unusable. Much worse, some people in neighbouring towns now CANNOT DRINK THE WATER. They have to PAY to have it shipped in. Furthermore, there have been incidents where a whole town has had to be evacuated because of threat of explosion.

Please STOP this move to fracking. Please QUESTION the Trans Pacific Partnership. In Canada, entire towns have been sued by the mining cartel for resisting their incursions. This is getting WAAAAAAAYYYYY out of control. And it goes against all common sense, all Human Rights, all environmental safety.

On a continent with an environment as fragile as ours, where water is already being exploited to the maximum because our animal based agricultural practises --- this is MADNESS. There is no other word for it. MADNESS.

Furthermore, globally, fossil fuels are on the way OUT. This means, that we will be flogging a dying industry at the expense of Australia's health, safety and economic system. Its very similar to PUSHING DRUGS OF ADDICTION. It is every bit as destructive.

- 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.

MAGGIE (MARGARET) MORGAN

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