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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2015 8:20 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

Don't allow more damaging, unhelpful, band-aid "solutions". We don't need any more forms of non-renewable energy, especially not unconventional gas. Unconventional gas 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.

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. It would be very short-sighted to allow perceived political or economic gains to allow such damage to take place, and there can be no doubt that that is what will happen. Please don't allow it. 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.

Instead we should be investing more in renewable energy. 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. We will run out of gas, and any jobs created would be lost. That won't happen with renewable energy.

Please don't expand the gas industry in this unconventional, damaging, unnecessary way. Investing more in renewable energy is a much better option, and it is the only long term solution.

Mark Lapierre

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