

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 8:09 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

long term it is not good to rely on gas as an energy source it's only marginally better than coal .As a farmer with beef production in 2 pristine areas i'm concerned that our ability to produce export quality beef may be in jeopardy . Our farm near Koo wee Rup relies on bore water for the stock , it's pumped from a large Aquifer that supplies not only beef farmers ,but Vegetable growers,flower growers ,fruit growers etc. One engineering miscalculation could destroy this industry and have drastic impacts on not only livelihoods but ,export income and balance of payments.

. The gas lobby would have us believe that this is necessary and there is a demand,this is demonstrably untrue with great quantities of gas being exported as quickly and cheaply as the energy companies can. The energy companies have the ability to start harnessing other forms of renewable energy if the government provides the legislative incentive.

- 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.

**Murray and Alison Clarke**  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

