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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 12:21 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

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To the Environment and Planning Committee,

Coal seam gas is not a clean or renewable source of energy. It will run out just like coal but before either of them run out, we will have already produced too much pollution for a sustainable future. We need to stop using up resources simply because they are there and instead we need to invest in renewable energy sources like wind and solar so that Victoria can have a 100% clean energy future. The burning of coal must be phased out as well and investment in renewables will see a stability in the industry leading to more jobs and innovation.

Since the future of renewable energy is far more sustainable than that of fossil fuels, the jobs created by investment in the industry will always be there as long as there is a demand for energy, i.e. for ever. We already have more people installing solar panels than there are people working in coal generation; even before committed investment from the government. Imagine the level of economic growth that is possible in this area! The workers who are currently employed in coal generation could be fairly easily re-skilled to work in the renewable energy sector so there would be no major job losses and there would be many more jobs created

Other major international jurisdictions like New York City and Ohio already have a ban on coal seam gas and yet Victoria is proposing to be amazingly regressive and begin coal seam gas exploration? Why not learn from those communities and cities who have had their land effectively taken off them and have experienced extremely unfair treatment from major coal seam gas companies? This is not what the community wants! Our Victorian community is crying out for renewable energy and for the abolishment of fossil fuels.

Coal seam gas has been proven to adversely affect land productivity, the environment, water supply and public health. If coal seam gas is brought to Victoria, we risk losing some of Australia's best, most fertile agricultural land and our community may be badly damaged. Any benefit put forward by CSG companies is far outweighed by all the negative aspects of coal seam gas.

As a member of the young generation of Victorians I can safely say that we don't want unconventional gas, and nor do most people. 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.

Patrick Pheasant

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