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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee.

We oppose any coal seam gas fracking in the farmland and public lands in Victoria. We do not regard fracking as a necessary industry from an economic point of view because there are alternatives in the wind energy and solar energy sector. The products would, in any case, not support our State but will be exported. Damage done by this industry is permanent but the gains from export are temporal.

The fracking industry has the following objectionable attributes that will devastate country Victoria and our natural heritage:

1. It will probably lead to poisoning of the aquifers upon which the dairying and other livestock industry depends. That damage may be permanent and the risk is not worth taking.
2. It will cause a massive degradation of the native forests, woodlands and heathlands on the Crown lands - the footprint at each site, including the network of roading required, has demonstrated that to be the case in NSW as the Google Earth photos show. That will inevitably reduce the amount of the native vegetation in Southern Victoria and its quality. The incursions of weeds will dramatically increase, adding to the problem.
3. Our threatened fauna (such as Southern Brown Bandicoot, Potoroo and Spot-tailed Quoll), already have a tenuous hold in many places and will be pushed even further to the brink by the alienation and fragmentation of our Crown lands that will inevitably be targeted by the fracking industry.
4. The industry would require enormous quantities of water that are needed for environmental and agricultural purposes. Disposal of the contaminated water then produces another problem.

We urge you to oppose this destructive industry.

**Patrick Bird**  
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