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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 11:54 AM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am especially concerned about the environmental damage that has occurred in areas where coal seam gas is extracted. These include the:

- very high water consumption required for 'fracking,'
- pollution of groundwater and aquifers by the toxic chemicals used in coal seam gas extraction,
- damage to agricultural land and loss of food production,
- fact that fracking has caused subsidence and damaging earth tremors.

Experiences from other parts of the world demonstrate that coal seam gas extraction is harmful and it has been banned in many jurisdictions. I urge that Victoria follows these forward-looking jurisdictions and also bans this dangerous practice.

Victoria is well-placed to take advantage of renewable energy sources and move away from fossil fuels. In addition to solar energy, many parts of Victoria are suited to wind and geo-thermal generation. Moreover, renewable energy will provide more employment, a greater jobs multiplier effect and more funds to the state's economy than coal seam gas production.

I urge you to place a permanent ban on coal seam gas extraction in Victoria.

Yours faithfully,

Peter G. Mewett.

Peter Mewett

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