



Submission on behalf of Frac Free East Gippsland to the Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria

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FFEG thank the Environmental and Planning Committee of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Victoria for this opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria.

Our group formed in early September, 2013. Around 140 people attended our first meeting and information night and our Facebook page currently has 542 'likes' that is steadily increasing.

The licence area of main concern to us is for a retention lease for tight gas owned by Lakes Oil.



FFEG is opposed to all forms of onshore and offshore unconventional gas and oil extraction including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas, and underground coal gasification. We firmly believe that the industry is **wrong** on every conceivable level including social, health, economic, and environmental.

East Gippsland sells itself on liveability, tourism, food growing and manufacturing, and the businesses that service the tourism industry. We have the capacity to build on our strengths and the ability to constantly renew. Ongoing development and/or positive real estate changeover is essential to ensure population movement can maintain school numbers,



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provide junior sport options progressing into senior sides, support volunteer organisations and keep essential businesses and tourist services viable.

An expanded onshore gas industry would significantly impact East Gippsland as a result of the environmental impact on the Gippsland Lakes. Such things as fragmented habitat; increased salinity from land subsidence and further depletion of the local aquifers; and industry waste-water being discharged into the numerous tributaries that feed into the Lakes system resulting in chemical residue that will build up in the vital ecosystems will all impact on tourism.

Property valuations will go down, changeover of property will decrease leading to school numbers declining, sports club struggling, motivation of volunteers reducing, tourism declining, business profits declining, liveability reducing and our saleable product no longer existing.

Tourism in the East Gippsland region will be hardest hit as it is such a fragile system that supports a massive economic industry. When the salinity increases and chemical build-up in fish becomes evident, fishing as we know it will cease to exist.

Once community renewal slows or ceases, and the short-lived gas industry is gone, our diverse and once thriving tourist and food production industries are gone, and our ability to sell our property at our discretion and on our terms is gone.

We ask the Committee for an outcome that ensures our local community remains vibrant and sustainable, something we believe can only happen through a permanent ban on all onshore unconventional gas mining activities.