



**Submission on behalf of
Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves
Re Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria**

Name: Adele van Rosmalen

Organisation: Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves

Position held: Ordinary member

FoGL address: PO Box 128, Bairnsdale 3875



FoGL 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.

FoGL formed ten years ago and actively strives to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the Gippsland Lakes area through research, evidence-based submissions to government bodies, initiation of on-ground projects and engaging the community through activities and education.

FoGL is concerned about all aspects of the environmental risks associated with an onshore unconventional gas industry including:

- Air Pollution
- Water contamination
- Inherent engineering problems that worsen with time
- Radioactive releases
- Noise pollution, light pollution and stress
- Earthquakes and seismic activity
- Gas wells (abandoned and active) as pathways for gas and fluid migration
- Flood risks
- Threats to agriculture and soil quality
- Threats to the climate system
- The impact on indigenous wildlife and biodiversity as a result of fragmented habitat, wide-spread clearing and industrialised landscapes
- The spread of weeds, pathogens and invasive species

Without a healthy Gippsland Lakes system, tourism and many businesses in this area, along with people's lifestyles will disappear. We must take all necessary steps to ensure the health of this extremely important Ramsar-listed site and we must act in the long-term interests of the environment because that is what underpins everything we value.

At the very least FoGL hope the Committee extend the moratorium pending more study and greater transparency. FoGL would support the Committee's call for a permanent ban of all forms of onshore unconventional gas mining.