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Submission: Unconventional Gas Industry (UGI) in Victoria

The prospect of the Unconventional Gas Industry operating in Victoria is quite concerning.

The potential risks and consequences to rural communities, industries, economies, health and social impacts negates any benefits and should be banned statewide.

- *The potential benefits of onshore unconventional gas as an energy source for the State.*

Bass Strait still contains many years of supply to meet the energy needs of the State. During the estimated 30 years of availability with advanced technology we should have a much cleaner and less risk option.

There is no need to permit a high environmental risk process (detailed below) mining process which may impact Victoria's successful industries; economy, productivity, business, community health, wellbeing, social cohesion employment and most importantly our farming and agricultural industries. .

All dependant on a clean healthy environment.

Further if the gas is for export, as I believe it is, and not for the domestic market, there would be no benefit, after taking on such potentially serious risks for the unwarranted and potentially dangerous mining to proceed.

There would be no benefits only only deficits to economy and environment. Royalties paid would not cover the costs.

Employment:

There would be minimal employment opportunities for local communities. Skilled and experienced workers would be required. Mining company mode of employment are rostered on a Fly in Fly out system all across Australia and elsewhere leaving little chance for job seekers in rural communities. Once the resource has been extracted the companies move on. There is no job security or sustainability for long term community benefit, whilst local rural jobs would not be available due to the decrease in farming and associated business the life-blood of a rural economy.

The Treasurer Tim Pallas, has recently said that mining is not one of the industries that the government wants to promote: we should encourage them on this issue and point out the other areas where jobs can be created in regional Victoria, including plans to increase food exports out of Victoria.

- *The potential risks, including risks to the environment, land productivity, agricultural industries and public health, and (2) whether such risks can be managed.*

Unconventional Gas Mining risks of contamination have become a reality both overseas and domestically.

Internationally many countries including USA . Africa, Canada, N.Z, Europe. Disasters which have been reported are quite concerning. For instance:

- Chemical spills, large scale water contamination- .Gristmill USA 300,000 without water.

Gas explosions Texas drinking water, pipes and plumbing radioactive -Groningen gas field earthquake, Netherlands, Canada dead cows –

We in Victoria are not immune to these risks and accidents.

In Pilliga Scrub there were 16 spills or leaks of contaminated water. In 2012 a NSW Legislative Council inquiry criticised the use of open holding ponds, recommending that the NSW Government ban the open storage of open

pits.

Recently three licences have been cancelled by the Premier for breach of contracts.

Homeland Chincella SE Qld also have suffered from leaking gas into water lines. **Licences**

The pressure to frack using this contaminated water is at risk of forever polluting the aquifers, rivers, sea and atmosphere. The waste water containing these toxic liquids and gas also pose a serious risk to land, water and air,

to human and animal health

The mining of gas creates concern with the risk from unstoppable flaring on farming properties..

- Over the summer season extreme high risk days are declared all outside fires are banned.

Gas mining operating on farming properties have unstoppable gas flaring..gas escapes are common.

from leaking underground pipes running horizontally carrying chemicals, posing an unacceptable risk of fire.

Gas mining is a 24hrs a day seven days a week operation. Transport trucking is continuous, causing noise and air pollution. From a peaceful productive farming community to a highway of noise and industrialisation is a radical

There is no guarantee of leakage prevention weather open ponds are used or enclosed the heavy metals will always be present, and accidents will happen over long periods of time.

The enormous amount of water used and over 500 toxic chemical used including methane, ethane, propane, arsenic, mercury, heavy metals, glycol ethers, BTEX chemicals, radioactivity, high amounts of salt and other nasties to crack the rocks below to obtain the gas is objectionable and a high risk proposition.

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The produced water brought to the surface as a byproducts of gas production contain undesirable concentrations of undissolved substances such as salts, naturally present chemicals, heavy metals and radionuclides-rendering productive land as wastland forever.

Public Health

There have been many cases reported through the media publicising the health problems occurring due to air, and water pollution. Gas leaks into water pipes, the constant smell of gas have caused health problems. Australian

medical reports of the effects on health caused by mining are numerous.

- Health report on families in Tara, Qld
- Report on Health Impacts Dr Wayne Sommerville – www.creeksbend.com/csg
- Health and environment effects- Dr Maryianne Lloyd Smith scientist
- Gas Leak by 4 Corners ABC
- Gas leaks are not uncommon and have been reported where gas mining has taken place leading to health issues, water contamination, gas leaking into water lines have all happened on farmland in NSW where mining has been conducted.

The mining of gas creates concern with the risk from unstoppable flaring on farming properties..

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- leaking underground pipes running horizontally carrying chemicals, posing an unacceptable risk of fire.

The NSW cancelling of contracts because of breaches would suggest that the risks cannot be managed.

Whether and how an unconventional gas industry could coexist with legal rights of property owners and existing land and water users.

Clean water is a commodity which sustains life. Water restrictions are common. .

The method of extraction using enormous amounts of clean water mixed with toxic levels of chemicals

is detrimental to all sectors of life. Ground water is decreasing. Users dependent on bored water are having to drill deeper to pump up water. It is depleting rapidly according to my conversations with farmers, and food producers.

Potential changes to our legislative and regulatory framework

I disagree with the VFF proposal that each individual farmer should have the power to deny or allow access to their properties. If one allows their property to be used then other farmers who don't want the mining could be subject to the pollution caused as previously noted.

The way forward is to Ban all unconventional gas mining in Victoria.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my paper and to add my voice with many other objectors.

Joan Kinnon

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