

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to you out of a deep concern over possible plans to permit fracking for unconventional gas extraction in Victoria.

I am strongly opposed to this as the potential risks are very significant whilst the sought after benefits of energy can be derived through far more sustainable and no risk means. Firstly it is worth noting that areas earmarked for fracking are in geographic areas that generate economic and social benefits from current uses such as tourism and food production. The latter is of particular significance if we wish to enhance the States and Australia's food security. Damage from fracking will kill off these industries with the resultant job losses and social implications thereof.

Whilst effective regulation may play a role in reducing the risks associated with fracking it should be noted that regulations cannot and will not provide a failsafe environment. Despite Regulations that are enforced over coalmine operations we have still seen disastrous and damaging fires at Hazelwood due to operator errors. Similarly in Japan despite stringent regulations around nuclear energy plants operation uncontrollable environmental factors can impact in such a way as to create catastrophic outcomes.

At present there is no shortage of gas in Victoria and so the focus should now be fully on developing our renewable energy supply sector. The renewable energy sector offers low to no risk solutions and will generate triple bottom line benefits for Victoria.

Yours Sincerely

Jan van de Graaff



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Email sent using Optus Webmail