

To Whom It may Concern

Syd Whyte

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I am a retired farmer and part many generations relying on the land for an income where we get paid in wholesale prices and have to operate in a retail market in a risky business at best normally with a fical environment with a highly variable international market.

I do not support any form of unconventional gas mining (including coal seam gas, tight gas, shale gas & underground coal gasification) as the information to hand regarding the **safety are questionable** let alone **cover reinstatement in the event the land is spoilt**. Especially when the government have committed sales of gas to international countries at 3cents a litre and the compensation and or royalties to landholders is negligible when we pay up to \$1/l for LP gas on the land for household use?

Through the journey of life we have had to deal with droughts, inclement rain events the have scarred the landscape with landslips that cannot be resurrected. Unconventional gas mining would be the last straw where we would be at risk of manmade exploration that could impact the future farming in Australia. My son still farms the land and my grandson at 14 years is keen to take up the role.

The Food & Fibre production in Australia is second to none and the premium product comes at a price as we sit now, let alone let it be jeopardised by greedy governments who do not consider the rural dwellers in their role to resource all the country localities and towns which are already under stress. 97% of federal and state budgets go into 10 major cities for infrastructure where our rural dirt roads are the worst they have been in the last 10 years of my 70 years on the land. Dairy products are one of the largest export portfolios passing through the Melbourne Docks; however we still suffer succession planning with the ageing farmer population. Where is the government recognition for the effort, poorly paid and support for primary industry?

Let's look at the archaic laws regarding land tenure, as we all know we are only caretakers of the land and wish to leave the property in a better state that when we started. In some countries people own the land not limited by depth, hence any

awarding of licences to mine should be subject to alternative sources of energy. Royalties should be devoted to research to escalate tidal, and wave energy as 95% of the populous live close to the seaboard. Superannuation for farmers should be built into the production, however this is not the case, hence land has to be sold and or partitioned to generate succession planning for the family as a whole, thus land devaluation due to CSG activity is counterproductive to achieving this aim.

Regional development and investment in community is suspect with the declining commitment to rural infrastructure as mentioned above...decentralisation!

Sustainable water supply and performance standards should not be breached in any form and health risks, including air quality, chemical use, waste disposal, land contamination and geotechnical stability.

International & Interstate information, experience and inquiries covering the management of risks for CSG should be recognised before any engagement with mining companies to engage in drilling onshore.

This is only a few of my sentiments and the Government should step very carefully as once the term of office is done where the decision was made, there would have to be bi-partisan guarantees built into the restoration in the event of failure..

The Government should listen to the groundswell where actual people are thinking on their feet and dependant on the resource, where suburbanites may not even give it a second thought.(Where the votes are)

.....Syd Whyte

Past Dairy Farmer...30 years

Past VFF / UDV President

Current Arawata Landcare President

South Gippsland Network Community Weeds Taskforce...committee

Korumburra & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc Past President

Victorian Agricultural Societies Limited Delegate...VASL

Central & Sth Gippsland Group Secretary...VASL