

RECEIVED 8 JULY 2015

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Keir Delaney, Secretary, Environment & Planning Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street Melbourne  
Victoria

SUBMISSION: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

Dear Sir / Madam

I am a resident of South Gippsland and I'm very concerned about the impact of climate change on my community around Inverloch. There has been test drilling in South Gippsland in the past. I back my local council's declaration that they want to be free of gas drilling.

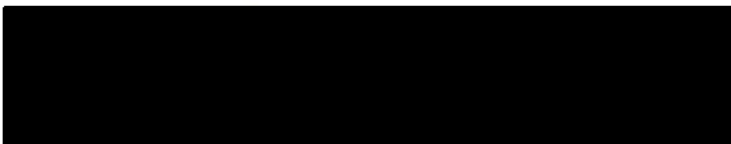
I am very much opposed to any unconventional gas drilling - for tight gas, shale gas, coal seam gas. **I want the current ban on all unconventional gas made permanent.** This gas being drilled for is a fossil fuel thus a greenhouse gas. Indeed, the methane component is one of the worst of them in the short-term. And if we don't act for the short-term, there will be no long-term!

For this gas, unconventional gas, the extraction regime is also more energy intensive than conventional gas extraction, especially with reference to fugitive emissions. Its economics are very questionable in most geological contexts. And extraction of this gas requires vast networks of relatively short life, but very disruptive, production wells.

Sustainable industries in rural Victoria need certainty for their enterprises in clean food production & tourism. Areas involved in such business do not need any threat of contamination of air, soil or aquifers. They must be kept clean and productive for future generations.

We know from States to our north and other countries that unconventional gas extraction is bad for the environment. Pollution by chemicals used in its extraction is likely to create health problems; healthy food production is a much better option, when we do not need this gas for our domestic use for at least 30 years!

Alternative energy sources are being developed at an increasing rate, and more long term jobs would be created from sustainable industries such as renewable energy, agriculture and tourism. We have – at last – a sizeable wind farm at Bald Hills near Inverloch. An example of what we need!

  
Ken Blackman  
