

RECEIVED 8 JULY 2015

The Secretary, Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne, Vic 3002

2 July 2015

Dear Committee Members

RE SUBMISSION TO STATE INQUIRY INTO UNCONVENTIONAL GAS (UCG)

As residents of Forge Creek, Shire of East Gippsland, due to current exploration licences held over our property by certain mining companies, we are included in the broader area under consideration for an unconventional gas industry to be established. Consequently, we submit our objections to the development of the industry in Victoria, in general, and our property in particular,

Regardless of companies commitment to inspection and monitoring, NO guarantees may be given to the following:

1. The density and expansiveness of the area under consideration makes it impossible for adequate control, inspection and monitoring of infrastructure.
2. The risks involved are too great and irreversible - that leaves no room for mistakes.
3. The risks are too great in regard to unknown factors relating to -
 - o contamination of aquifers.
 - o impact on whole of the Lakes system.
 - o human error.
 - o equipment failure.
 - o unknown natural occurrences – bushfire, earthquake, flood.
 - o ecological formations throughout the area.

4. **Environmental Impacts**

A large portion of our property is under Covenant, being returned to native forest to address the declining habitat available to wildlife in the region. We consider this would prove a treasonable act for any government to override our citizen's rights, in favour of the interests of multi-national companies and their share-holders.

Regardless of accidents, the industrialization of the area and fragmentation of habitat e.g. hauling lines etc, that would see increased road-kills, attracting increased predators that in turn would prey upon sensitive indigenous wildlife and bird species would have devastating effects.

5. **Social and Economic Outcomes**

The detrimental affects of industrialization of the landscape would have a negative impact on tourism and agriculture in the area and would prove to compromise the State Government's promotion of the area as the 'European and Chinese food bowl'.

Yours faithfully



Reginald R Waltham



(Mrs) Olive Waltham