

To the Environment and Planning Committee for Unconventional gas inquiry.

I am writing to make my feelings known about unconventional gas (UG) pending the inquiry.

The Australian people rely on government to make the right decisions and choices. The government should be about quality of life for all Australian people and not just lining the pockets of industrialist companies. Too many times governments have chosen industry above the welfare and quality of life of the majority of people, which includes the environment that we live in.

I object to unconventional gas fields on the following grounds.

- UG is a short-term proposition - the maximum life-time of a mine is only around 20 years
- history in Queensland and the USA shows that, when things go wrong, the consequences are devastating - we should learn from history and not perpetuate it
- the gas/oil companies have a vested interest in down-playing the dangers - the chemical cocktails they use are harmful to humans and the environment
- productive farm land, which has often been farmed for generations, will be turned into industrial areas. Infrastructure and roads means that these areas will never be the same again
- the only benefit is to the gas/oil company. Although the initial workers may bring money into an area, this is not on-going.
- smart management would foreseen that fossil fuels are on the way out - the way forward is renewable energy

- UG is unpopular with the general population - I will not vote for a government that promotes it

I sincerely hope that the inquiry will ban unconventional gas from the whole of Victoria. Let us learn from the mistakes of Queensland.

Thank you for your time.

Regards  
Cathy Cheadle  
Western Plains Area