

Submission to the Unconventional Gas inquiry

From:

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To:

The Environment and Planning Committee

The approval of Gas licenses to proceed in Victoria would be detrimental to the environment and the population on many levels.

The environmental consequences are devastating and will cause permanent damage.

Environmental degradation is an unavoidable by product of drilling and pumping highly toxic chemicals in coal seams to facilitate gas production. In addition the fracking process requires thousands of litres of water infused with these potentially carcinogenic chemicals. The residue of which has no impediment to contaminate the local water table and the surrounding aquifer networks. Once contaminated the water becomes toxic and saline and a danger to the health of human, animal and plant that come into contact through consumption as drinking water and all forms of farming and agricultural productions. We need to look no further than Queensland to see the devastation the gas industry has had on land and water degradation. The same can be said for regions of America that have become uninhabitable because of this insidious mining. France has seen fit to ban forever this form of mining after deeming its environment and food production too sensitive to allow such a toxic industry.

The disruption to environment does not confine itself to the sub terrain. Gas wells are linked by a maze of exposed, unsightly pipelines and serviced by roads and tracks for chemical trucks that require the widespread clearing of trees, vegetation and once arable land in order to construct and maintain production. Furthermore, slag or evaporation ponds are required in the process to discard toxic fluids and tainted water. They represent another potential danger should they leech or flood into surrounding areas. Gas mining and the environment don't mix.

The protection of the state's environmental assets should far outweigh the short term low yield of gas extraction. Victoria has an established and growing tourist industry that would be decimated by the gas scourge. Not only for the tourists, but equally for our families and communities to exist in an environment where energy can be accessed from renewable sources such as Solar and Wind technologies that are in need of further development.

In conclusion I believe that Victoria must permanently ban all unconventional gas exploration.