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**From:** Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 July 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mr Chris Bitmead  
[REDACTED]

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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To the inquiry panel,

I work in corporate business in Geelong and live on a farm producing organic food in the stunning community of Paraparap. My wife and I moved to this area 4 years ago to bring up our family in a healthy, community engaged and environmental consciousness area . We grow organic produce which we sell locally and to the Footscray market. We have plans to branch into educational tours on the farm for schools and adult groups on how our produce is made using organic principles and environmental friendly farming techniques. I'm also looking at some tourism ventures starting with Bed & Breakfast and farm gate to attract Melbournians to our region.

Victoria has invested significantly invested and promoted agriculture and tourism and still is. It also promotes these industries as crucial businesses for the state, yet the introduction of any form of CSG is completely moving away from and has the potential to destroy these industries being promoted as Victoria's future. If a CSG well/site was made anywhere near our farm or even connected to the same water table, I would be personally reluctant to eat our food, from the risk of chemical transfer. Our farm gate business would have to be closed and we would move. As we would not risk our children growing up in an environment where the air and water are polluted, when we purposely moved to rural Victoria to bring them up in a healthy environment.

The process of CSG extraction also poses the risk of chemical contamination and salinity issues that could have a massive impact on agriculture.

I am writing a submission as I am disappointed that CSG is even being considered for our wonderful state of Victoria and that the money and effort is not being put into renewable energy sources.

I do not want to grow or buy produce that is grown anywhere near or has a shared ground water source from an area that has CSG within that region. And I believe all my customers will feel the same.

It is clear that our community has said no to CSG in our region and I don't want CSG in our rural areas. Paraparap has said 92% do not want CSG in our area and we have declared ourselves frack free. Moriac and freshwater creek our surrounding towns have also declared them selves CSG free.

In addition to the environmental impacts, I also have grave concerns about the impact of CSG well sites on the amenity of our suburb.

I love living in our pristine countryside and breathing in fresh air. Not the off gassing of a CSG well site. I am also concerned about the noise pollution that will be caused by the wells and the 24 hour access that is required to maintain them.

Paraparap is a very quiet area and one of the reasons I moved there. Make no mistake that noise travels long distances in this area. This will impact our ability to establish successful tourism ventures.

The government and energy companies should be looking at renewable energies (and incentivised for doing so), not introducing CSG where it will have a negative impact on the environment. Climate change is a really issue in Australia and around the world and I don't want to my children and grandchildren looking back wondering what our generation was thinking at allowing this practice to take place in Victoria.

I have seen the negative impacts that CSG production has had in Queensland and NSW and for this reason I do not want CSG exploration or production to occur in Victoria in such close proximity to so many homes.

In terms of job creation, there will be some construction jobs created initially, but this work is likely to be done by specialist who have experience in gas pipeline work- it will create very few local jobs and even less ongoing jobs. CSG is simply not worth the risk to the environment or to the Agriculture and Tourism industries that are currently thriving and employing thousands in our region.

I am strongly opposed to any form of CSG in Victoria, with or without regulations, I don't not believe it will benefit any Victorians communities, only the mining companies (who are likely to be domiciled in other countries for tax reasons). Please think very carefully about your recommendations from this enquiry as Victorians do not want CSG.

The way I see it, you can either support the mining companies and make them lots money OR you can support the Victorian community and our smaller family businesses which constitute the bulk of business in Australia and pay tax in Australia.

Kind regards  
Chris Bitmead

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File1:

File2:

File3: