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**From:** Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 July 2015 2:43 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Ms Paula Greenough  
[REDACTED]

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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to whom it may concern,

as a life long resident of the state of Victoria I have not only lived here for over 50 years but worked across many industries ranging from banking to farming, as well as an education firmly based in the Anthropological arena. As such I have the advantage of a wholistic approach to drawing the conclusions to this volatile and contentious issue.

In this line of enquiry I see the pressures of industry, governments and population all driven by their own agendas and outcomes. Much is left to conjecture, as a difference of opinion is overlaid with conflicting evidence or lack of.

Yet the most important component to the process is common sense centred firmly at the core of the "best for all" outcome; and by this I mean the incorporation of sustainability, longevity, benefit, absolute need and most important the impact in short and long term models on the society as a whole.

It is well documented that gas seam mining is a cost affective process as far as extraction is concerned as the process after initial setup leaves a production site unmanned and left at a maintenance level, as opposed to the expense of offshore resourcing.

The contentious issue is the true viability and sustainability, as also well documented, that many of these sites do "leach" toxins into water tables and compromise immediate air quality. Models in other countries where this process is used have over extended periods encountered environmental damage with long range continuation of that damage. The problem being that the very premise of this system of extraction means that "plugging" or "decommissioning" a well is virtually impossible.

The next issue is where these wells are placed. If they could be drilled in areas that were not resource rich in other resources vital to our sustainability as a society, these issues would still be in play but others with vested interests would probably not object to wells in the Simpson dessert per se. Yet we still have to reconcile seepage of wells over long range times and impacts of those toxic substances in our environment. Do we concede that a compromised nuclear power station as Chernobyl or Fukushima are no longer a threat once they were "shut down" .

We so often make decisions based on information presented with the needs of the day only to find with hind-sight we see the bigger picture. So in long term the financial viability is questionable once the environmental costs are taken into account.

The long term issues are: .pipes compromised by cracks

.poor concrete quality

.land shift

.water intrusion

.leaching toxins- subterranean

-aerial

.repairs with more toxic substances

.shared land use incompatible

.health impact on workers and . residents

.water quality compromised

.no clear long term gain

.likely links to 'sinkholes'

.longterm and irreversible damage

to environment

This is quite a list to navigate and common sense suggests a moratorium on this mining is put in place until a balanced and well informed inquiry by mutually independent counsel are acquired.

As we progress and populate we owe our conscience not just to the here and now but to those and that of the future

Yours sincerely

Paula Greenough

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File1:

File2:

File3: