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**From:** Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 July 2015 2:47 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mrs Jacqui Walker  
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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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As a land owner in East Gippsland, situated on the Gippsland Lakes, which is under consideration for unconventional gas mining, I wish to express my concern and strong objection to any form of onshore gas mining.

I am the mother of two young children, who enjoy and thrive on the beautiful surrounds we live in, this would be completely destroyed if onshore gas mining was to go ahead in Victoria.

I live in Nungurner, a community where a survey was undertaken. 98% of residents surveyed were opposed to onshore gas mining and the fracking process involved in extracting the gas. The community will never support fracking, regardless of the regulations implemented.

East Gippsland is a beautiful part of the world, largely reliant on tourism, fishing and agriculture. All of these industries would be hugely impacted if onshore gas mining was to go ahead. The health of the lakes would decline, tourism numbers would fall, the financial viability of local business and tourism industry would fall, creating loss of jobs, large unemployment numbers and a large number of businesses to close.

Not to mention the impact from chemicals used in the fracking process on peoples health. The USA has been a test case for the health impacts, brain tumours, respiratory issues, cancers in young children, skin irritations, neurological affects and severe effects on the unborn. None of this existed in the numbers now present until fracking commenced. Studies in the US have shown a 100% increase in neural tube defects and a 30% increase in congenital heart defects. Lets not make the same mistake and destroy local communities for this yet proven industry.

The effects on land are as equally bad, the contamination and depletion of groundwater, the raise in salinity levels and the large increase in earthquakes in unconventional gas mining areas.

The benefits of totally banning unconventional gas drilling permanently include certainty for farmers and the agricultural industry, certainty for tourism and the local fishing industry, which will in turn make Victoria and East Gippsland a more attractive place for investments along with new investments such as renewable energy. This will create more jobs in the long term in sustainable industries.

Why would we put our local water supply at risk, farm land, community health, the security of our food source, the environment and jobs in other sectors such as agriculture and tourism for very little or no financial gain at all. Lets develop and invest in local jobs instead which would create a stronger future for generations to come.

The environment would be grossly effected which would affect land productivity for cattle and food production. There is no safe way to mine for onshore gas. After the mining is finished, the land would be rendered useless, it would never be safe to use again for cattle or agricultural farming purposes. Imagine the affect this would have on generations to come and our food supply.

The experiences of those in the US and QLD are heartbreaking, and the impacts felt in QLD would be even worse here in Victoria due to our more densely populated region.

It is difficult to sustain the co-existence of onshore unconventional gas mining activities with existing land and water uses, these include the likely impacts on agricultural production and domestic and export market requirements.

My family have a large farm in East Gippsland and the infrastructure required for gas wells including all weather access roads, cleared well pads, compression stations and evaporations dams would not make the daily running of the farm viable.

The impact on property values would decline, land would be unusable and virtually unable to sell if onshore unconventional gas mining was permitted.

Unconventional gas mining will not create any extra jobs for locals, it will put jobs at risk in other sectors such as tourism and farming.

Because they need to be fracked to release the gas from the coal seam or rock, the energy cost of the gas is high compared with conventional LNG. Additionally, with the government plans to export massive volumes of gas through ports in QLD, Victorian consumers will be competing with international energy prices in coming year. So unconventional gas mining is unlikely to be an affordable energy source for consumers. A much better option is to look at ways we can reduce our need to use gas (for instance through ensuring better energy efficiency standards in new homes and a government funded energy efficiency program for existing houses).

The industry has long proven to be unsafe in other parts of the world and Australia. The practices of the industry are clearly not safe and have been unable to be proven so. The risk is too great to local communities and food producers, fishing industry.

Further scientific work is required to inform the community of the effective regulation including the role of industry and government, particularly in relation to rigorous monitoring and enforcement.

Performance standards for managing environmental and health risks, including water quality, air quality, chemical use, waste disposal, land contamination and geotechnical stability are not adequate and further improvement is required.

If unconventional gas mining does go ahead in Vitoria, it will be an assault on the community which will last for decades.

Yours sincerely  
Jacqui Walker

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File1:

File2:

File3: