

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 9:59 AM
To: EPC
Subject: My submission against Fracking or any form of Fossil fuels

Honorable Parliamentarians

We need to turn away from fossil fuels and not try fracking and destroy farmlands and water resources.

- Fracking will destroy our lands for Agriculture and will affect the livelihood of farmers
- It will affect tourism by these unsightly and polluting industry of unconventional gas extraction
- Invest in clean unpolluting industries like solar and wind power generation
- Do not run the government by lobby groups, democracy is by the people, for the people and not a few minorities who buy the government with their power and money
- We can have prosperity without growth, we can uncouple growth from economy (1)
- We can have a steady state economy (2)

- Victoria needs a permanent ban on all unconventional gas.
- Protecting Victoria from fracking and other unconventional gas will protect existing jobs, especially in agriculture and tourism.
- There's no way that the risks to farming land and our water resources can be safely managed. We saw from the Hazelwood mine fire that regulatory systems can fail, and that failure can lead to environmental and public health disasters. It is not worth the risk.
- According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, there is no gas shortage in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia, so there is no need to risk the health of crucial farmland just to extract gas that we don't need.
- Victoria needs to transition rapidly to zero net emissions. There is growing evidence of fugitive emissions (ie. leaking) from unconventional gas processes, showing that gas is not as clean as once thought, and there is no time for fossil fuels that are just less dirty. Gas therefore has no place in Victoria's future energy mix. If Victoria is to be considered a leader on climate change, the government cannot allow a new gas industry to be established.
- No amount of Victorian gas production will reduce the prices that consumers have to pay. Gas prices have increased because LNG exports from the east coast have linked us to international markets where prices are higher. A Victorian gas industry will not save consumers money. The best solution for consumers to reduce gas bills is through energy efficiency initiatives.

with greatest regards to you, that you will do in the best interest of majority of people
 Dr Alphonse Benoit

References:

- (1) Book: Prosperity without growth by Tim Jackson
- (2) Prosperous Descent: Crisis as Opportunity in an Age of Limits by Samuel Alexander