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From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 3:55 PM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Ms Jillian Thio
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry.

I live in East Gippsland and am very concerned about the very real possibility of adverse environmental, public health, social and economic impacts caused by onshore unconventional gas mining.

There is very strong local opposition from our communities. We should not be ignored.

I am concerned that there will be adverse economic impacts on agriculture tourism, horticulture, and commercial and recreational fishing.

The Gippsland Lakes wetlands are of international significance and are protected by the Ramsar agreement. Gasfields would impact adversely on this area endangering migratory birds that would not be able to co-exist with noise, lights and pollution.

The Gippsland Lakes are home to a unique species of indigenous protected Burrunan dolphins that would be impacted adversely by any changes to water quality and/or fish species.

The aquifer system in East Gippsland is apparently very complicated and to date not fully understood. Given the large amount of water needed in the fracking process it would be very irresponsible to allow mining companies access to aquifers. Water, in our drought prone country, is a very precious resource.

Our food security is also of concern and farmers in other States have not been able to co-exist with mining. It is morally wrong to impact adversely on the livelihood of our farmers.

Fracking is a known contributor to earthquake activity and it would be totally irresponsible to allow fracking in areas that are prone to seismic activity.

Dr Steve Hambleton, President of the Australian Medical Association said in May 2013: "Despite the rapid expansion of the CSG developments, the health impacts have not been adequately researched, and effective regulations that protect public health are not in place. There is a lack of information on the chemicals used and wastes produced, insufficient data on cumulative health impacts, and a lack of comprehensive environmental monitoring and health impact assessments. In circumstances where there is insufficient evidence to ensure safety, the AMA recommends that the precautionary principle should apply." It is unacceptable to put public health at risk.

It is not acceptable or appropriate to have gasfields near where people live. The Prime Minister is concerned about wind turbines because he thinks they are visually unappealing - how much worse the impact of noise and pollution on people and the environment.

In conclusion, the documented evidence of the risks of GSG mining are continuing to grow. Therefore the only safe outcome is for a total ban on unconventional gas mining. At the very least, like Tasmania, the moratorium should be extended for another 5 years.

Yours sincerely
Ms Jillian Thio



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File1:

File2:

File3: