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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 4:05 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas

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Grey-haired, so no self-interest; but concern for future Victorians.

Now that local prices for gas have been linked to the international market, unconventional gas has become a financially viable source for miners to exploit.

However there is no shortage of gas supply in Victoria or Australia (Australian Energy Market Operator) and there are forecasts that the demand for gas is decreasing.

If permitted, extraction of unconventional gas might continue for a few decades until wells run dry. In that process much farming land and land for wildlife would be degraded by the building of drilling infrastructure. If evidence from Queensland and NSW is considered, there is the potential for much harm, both physical and psychological, to the current landowners, most of whom are small farmers. With the potential for contamination of underground aquifers and the high volumes of water required for the extraction of gas, this is a risk that I believe is not worth taking.

Victoria produces high quality food products and has the potential to produce more food into the foreseeable future, well beyond a few decades, if its water and land are not spoilt. Food will be a commodity for which the demand will continue to increase (unlike gas).

Please consider an indefinite ban on unconventional gas exploration and extraction in Victoria.