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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 4:37 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Fw: Coal Seam Gas
Attachments: CSG letter to Premier of Queensland.docx; Premier (1).pdf; Premier (2).pdf

Hon. Premier Andrews and Members of State Parliament,

With respect, please allow us to introduce ourselves, Jeanette and Rex Blennerhassett of [REDACTED] (retired farmers).

As firm believers that this industry would destroy Victoria's very precious farming lands, which form a large part of Australia's food bowl and income, our rivers, in particular, the Heritage Listed Mitchell River, and the very valuable Gippsland Lakes, especially with regard to agriculture and tourism and its impact on the other nearby waterways, aquifers, personal health and towns. Tourism in Victoria is currently enjoying a huge surge in visitor numbers.

Normally we are not "letter writers" and do not become involved in airing our opinions to the wider community. However this is such a **serious** issue, we wish to express that we consider it is vital the Government **not** accept the recently released supposedly Independent Report into Unconventional Gas Mining in Victoria and wish to make comments on this incorrect and somewhat biased report.

After participating in a group face to face interview with a member of the Independent Panel in Bairnsdale, we came away disgusted with the attitude of the interviewing lady.

We felt she was **not** actually listening to our concerns and for the entire hour or so, she was making notes?? on the bottom of the pages which she kept HIDDEN from our view. We concluded that she **correctly** assumed we were very much against Unconventional Gas Mining, but she was **incorrect** in assuming we were ill informed. She went so far as to challenge some of our opinions.

The report shows that a large percentage of people, especially those who were part of a random phone interview, were unable to state whether they were for or against Unconventional Gas mining owing to not knowing **anything** about it. Their admission not ours. Could we please ask how these persons were chosen? Also the report shows a large percentage of interviews and results were from people in Metropolitan areas and we believe they consider they would not be directly impacted by any future disruption to their lives, the environment, water contamination, their personal health and general surroundings. Food comes from the SUPERMARKET!!!, water out of a TAP!!! and MILK out of a carton!!! In all honesty what would they know or care as one only has to speak to many people in Melbourne and say where we are from and they do not even know **where** our town is!!!! So we ask how could they make an informed answer for the purposes of the study!!!! Where is the data in the report from the responses of those who will be directly impacted.

We are attaching previous correspondence to the Premier of Queensland. The letters, both from ourselves and the reply from the Premier, are self-explanatory and hopefully explain why the Victorian Government **must not** allow Unconventional Gas Mining in Victoria. Many years of following the impacts of mining to health of the people, it's towns, rivers etc across Queensland prove that it would be **very, very** wise for the Victorian Government to take these results into consideration which are now proven to be a disaster across many areas. Of course mining companies declare and make many UNPROVEN promises to return the land to it's previous condition and that they will make minimal impact on the environment and the population. It will be TOO LATE when they have gone and left the degradation behind perhaps never to recover eg the township of Seaspray in Victoria and Chinchilla in Queensland. Also they cannot bring back those farmers who have been so affected they have committed suicide leaving devastated families behind.

World renowned water Hydrologists have stated that there is no possible means to properly clean and return the vast amounts of contaminated water required to extract Unconventional Gas. The toxic and carcinogenic chemicals used by mining cannot be successfully extracted from the returned water, therefore rivers and aquifers etc will be lost for future use by agriculture, humans and their health affected over, who knows how long a period, and how will the water usage be replaced by potable water and seepage of the toxins be prevented.

The Victorians, who will be **directly** impacted, are the **only** citizens who should be permitted to state whether they are against or in favour of mining for Unconventional Gas. There were many at the Bairnsdale Survey who were unable to voice their opinions owing to only a small amount of staff being available and many people missed out altogether. Many of those turned away had made the effort to attend and obviously would have made a point of researching the impact of the mining and this would have perhaps showed much different figures from those as reported in the Survey now in Government hands. As the original independent survey was poorly advertised and promoted we are certain even more local members of the Community would have considered attending had they known and understood the implications of the results of degradation to their local areas instead the report states that a large percentage of those surveyed were undecided. How can the Government look at this report as an indication of the true feelings of affected communities as being satisfactory?

We suggest you may take time to read a very interesting and well researched book written by Sharyn Munro "Rich Land - Waste Land" and in particular the last chapters referring to CSG and it's repercussions and refer to the statements therein which include quotes by renowned Scientists, Health Experts etc. Also a viewing of the documentary "The Frackman" may be informative to you.

It was also brought to our attention that the Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas made some rather interesting remarks at a mining industry conference recently regarding the expansion of unconventional gas in Victoria.

He is quoted here -

"The public are confused and uncertain about unconventional gas exploration and extraction".

"It's fair to say many Victorians remain unconvinced". "To regain support it is necessary to do the hard yards. We understand the industry's frustration with the

moratorium but we also want to make it clear it was not a situation of our making.”
!!!!!!!

That may be so but now is the opportunity for this Government to take proper care of our State and listen to those who elected them.

Well, we firmly state that we ourselves are not unconvinced nor confused whatsoever, and it is very clear that the risks involved far outway any advantages and we are prepared to continue advocating no onshore unconventional gas mining for the safely and well being of our entire State and its people regardless of the pressure being applied by the multi-national mining companies.

Therefore we respectfully request that the current moratorium be continued indefinitely.

WE IMPLORE THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

Yours faithfully,

Jeanette and Rex Blennerhassett

