



Mr Keir Delaney
Secretary,
Environment & Planning Committee
Parliament House
SPRING STREET,
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Sir

I am a 64 year old Farmer on a productive 700 acre property, supplying quality food to Australian Consumers. Without disruption this is a sustainable livelihood for generations to come, and provides both employment and financial benefits for the local community. [REDACTED] has been watered by a permanent creek for over 120 years, and by 2 Bores at 120 feet (5000 gallons P/H) and 170 feet. Any contamination to my water supply will obviously compromise the viability of the farming operation.

My previous experience as a Production Driller in the Mining Industry in Northern Australia, and subsequently as Relieving Operations Manager North Australia, with I.C.I. (now ORICA) manufacturing and supplying explosives, exposed me to the possible pitfalls associated with mining and drilling operations. I am fully conversant with undesirable outcomes encountered from time to time, but which company security prevents from being subjected to public scrutiny.

Hazards associated with conventional L.N.G. and offshore production I previously accepted as par of the course. Now the prospect of "Fracking" on my farm, or within the local community is a very daunting prospect considering the detrimental consequences attributed to this form of gas extraction in America, Queensland and New South Wales. You are no doubt familiar with many of the highlighted cases I could raise – WE DON'T WANT ANY REPEATS HERE.

Associated with ongoing drilling operations are issues such as land contamination, waste disposal, impure water and air caused by chemical intrusion, and of course, inconvenience to the landowner attempting to remain viable. Further down the track, depreciated land values and partial or total loss of livelihood, thereby precipitating family upheaval, mean permanent productive loss to the community and thus the nation. Sadly the gas company may have enjoyed some financial success, moved on and left a mess. Well intentioned ongoing rehabilitation covenants cannot provide 100%

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success and sometimes fall far short of the mark, often only protecting the offender until public scrutiny dissipates.

A survey conducted in our broader Branhholme, Wallacedale, Byaduk region shows 95% of respondents oppose unconventional gas operations --- too much to lose for so little gain.

In closing, may I humbly mention firstly that "Brisbane Hill" uses non invasive solar power, and secondly, that I appreciated the wonderful support of hundreds of concerned community members, businesses and farmers who recently brought 67 tractors to "Brisbane Hill" to spell out our **FOOD NOT GAS** plea.

Please consider the long term ramifications for this great Country, and thank you for any safeguards you may recommend.

Yours sincerely

JIM MACGUGAN