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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2015 6:16 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

The Surf Coast is already subject to an Exploration licence by Lakes Oil. We are very concerned that with an end to the moratorium on fracking that mining will commence. Our region is renowned for its agriculture and for tourism. Clean and green are the economic drivers of this coastline and hinterland. Last year 7 million people travelled along the Great Ocean Road, most returning to Geelong and Melbourne via inland routes. Fracking sites are not normally part of a tourist journey and would detract from a tourism experience -hardly the stuff of positive reviews. Employment is already strong in these areas. We don't need fracking.

- We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. Unconventional gas is not a renewable source of energy - it is polluting, contributes to climate change, and is not required as a fuel to transition between fossil fuels and renewables. We can make a planned transition to 100% renewables in Victoria without the need for gas as a 'bridging' fuel, but we need to start investing in real renewables like solar and wind power now.
- We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to provide employment. Supporting and growing our renewables industry will provide more jobs that are future-proofed and lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria. Growth in our renewables industry provides a valuable opportunity for re-skilling and redeploying workers who need help to transition from traditional energy production roles – there are now more people employed installing solar panels in Victoria than in coal generation.
- Other jurisdictions like the United Kingdom, New York City and Ohio have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas, and Victoria should follow suit, as this is what the community wants.
- Coal seam gas carries massive and proven risks for the environment and health. It threatens our environment, land productivity, agricultural industries, our water supply, our communities and public health, and the risks are far too great to be mitigated or outweighed by any benefits.
- Victorian communities don't want unconventional gas. At least 30 communities have already declared themselves gasfield-free, and the number continues to grow. The Government needs to respect the wishes of Victorian communities.

regina gleeson
committee member
Surf coast Air Action

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