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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 June 2015 1:29 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

Dear Environment and Planning Committee,

I submit the following points for your consideration:

1- Unconventional gas is not a renewable source of energy, so we don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. Apart from being polluting (modelling suggests the industry could produce 31 million tonnes of waste salt over the next 30 years), it contributes to more green house gases in the atmosphere (the industry could produce as much greenhouse gas as all the cars on the road in Australia), thus to the unpredictable effects of climate change and is not required as a fuel to transition between fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy. We can make a planned transition to 100% renewable energy in Victoria without the need for gas as a 'bridging' fuel, but we need to increasingly invest in real sources renewable energy such as solar and wind power.

2 -We don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to provide employment. Supporting and growing our renewable industries will provide more jobs that are future-proofed and lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria. Growth in our renewable industries provides a unique opportunity for reskilling and redepoying 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.

3 - Other jurisdictions such as 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.

4 - Coal seam gas carries massive and proven risks for the environment and health (such as clearly demonstrated in the documentary 'Gasland'). It severely 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.

5 - 30+ communities have declared themselves gasfield-free and that number continues to grow. Victorian communities don't want unconventional gas. I call on the Victorian Government to heed the needs and respect the wishes of Victorian communities.

**Richard Purdy**  
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