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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 3:51 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am writing to urge you to permanently ban the exploitation of unconventional gas in the state of Victoria.

The risk-benefit analysis simply does not add up. Not for the people of Victoria, not for the environment, not for future generations. The track record of unconventional gas in other parts of the world proves that it is a risky technology. This is why it has been banned in many jurisdictions, and it is why there is mass public opposition to unconventional gas in places such as Victoria which are yet to ban it.

The potential consequences are disastrous. It is utterly reckless and immoral to inflict this risk not only upon ourselves but upon countless future generations who will suffer the consequences of permanent geological damage and persistent pollutants with severe environmental and health effects.

Any government that allows corporations to inflict these harms will have derelicted its duty to protect people and the environment.

This is true regardless of any of the possible benefits the proponents of unconventional gas may raise.

Natural gas is non-renewable and burning it releases carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change. The only suitable substitute for fossil fuels is renewable energy infrastructure. Reputable studies show that 100% renewable energy generation is viable in Victoria. Claims that gas is needed for baseload power or as a transition fuel are provably false. Any potential economic or employment benefits of an unconventional gas industry could be achieved in other ways that carry much less risk to people and the environment: for example by stimulating the renewable energy industry.

I urge all members of the Environment and Planning Committee to do their job and protect the people of Victoria from the risks inherent in unconventional gas exploitation by banning it, permanently.

**Russell Edwards**

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