

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 12:21 AM
To: EPC
Subject: Re: Inquiry into unconventional gas.

Sandie LaVaughn
[REDACTED]

- Victoria needs a permanent ban on all unconventional gas.
- Protecting Victoria from fracking and other unconventional gas will protect existing jobs, especially in agriculture and tourism.
- There's no way that the risks to farming land and our water resources can be safely managed. We saw from the Hazelwood mine fire that regulatory systems can fail, and that failure can lead to environmental and public health disasters. It is not worth the risk.
- According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, there is no gas shortage in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia, so there is no need to risk the health of crucial farmland just to extract gas that we don't need.
- Victoria needs to transition rapidly to zero net emissions. There is growing evidence of fugitive emissions (ie. leaking) from unconventional gas processes, showing that gas is not as clean as once thought, and there is no time for fossil fuels that are just less dirty. Gas therefore has no place in Victoria's future energy mix. If Victoria is to be considered a leader on climate change, the government cannot allow a new gas industry to be established.
- No amount of Victorian gas production will reduce the prices that consumers have to pay. Gas prices have increased because LNG exports from the east coast have linked us to international markets where prices are higher. A Victorian gas industry will not save consumers money. The best solution for consumers to reduce gas bills is through energy efficiency initiatives.

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you today in regards to your inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria. Firstly it disappoints me that Australia would ever even consider unconventional gas when there is so much evidence of devastating and irreversible damage to land and water supply. Not to mention health hazards for people and wild life. Unconventional gas only serves to make companies richer and in no way benefits Victorians. I plead with you to keep Victoria CSG free and put a permanent ban on all unconventional gas. This will help protect our environment and protect existing jobs in agriculture and tourism.

"According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, there is no gas shortage in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia, so there is no need to risk the health of crucial farmland just to extract gas that we don't need."

We are all well aware that no amount of gas production will reduce the price on gas that consumers have to pay. Gas prices have increased because LNG exports have linked us to international markets where the prices are higher. So a Victorian gas industry will not save we the consumers money. What will save consumers money is energy efficiency initiatives. Please invest our future in clean energy. If Victoria is to be considered a leader on climate change then the Government cannot allow a new gas industry to be established.

Sincerely,

Sandie LaVaughn.