

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 July 2015 5:49 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

In the recent State election the Greens received 3035 first preference votes or 8%. It is safe to say that pretty much all of those voters are completely opposed to the fracking industry, under all its various names, and hope it will be banned in Victoria. Whilst I am not writing here on behalf of the party, was the candidate in that election and make this submission on behalf of those people. As the convener of the East Gippsland Branch of the party I also write to represent the views of our membership.

Several towns in East Gippsland have declared themselves 'frack free' after community surveys returning greater than 90% opposition to the industry. The majority of those people are not Green voters and also oppose this industry. The explicit point of those declarations was to have this industry banned, at least in their towns if not also throughout Victoria. Each town that has been threatened with fracking has come out in community surveys as being 90% plus in favor of a ban. My point here is, simply, that democratic principles demand of this inquiry ban this industry.

- 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 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. France, Germany, Ireland and Scotland have banned this industry.
- 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.

**Scott Campbell-Smith**