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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 10:25 AM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

As a member of the Victorian community, I am opposed to the use of coal seam gas and wish the current short ban on coal seam gas to be extended to a permanent ban.

– Coal seam gas has been proven to risk both our environment and our health. Threatening a number of life-giving activities and areas such as our water supplies, agricultural practices and land productivity. I see it as a dangerously risky option of producing energy that has a large impact on our communities, but provides little benefit.

– We have so many environmentally friendlier and less risky alternatives that we should be investing in, rather than entertaining the idea of coal seam gas. I would rather see Victoria invest in renewable energy such as solar and wind, which will benefit us indefinitely which having little detrimental impact, rather than choose a land-devastating option which will only provide for a limited period of time.

– When the argument of providing employment comes up, I see this as a no-starter. Employment will be provided in whichever new area we choose to seek energy. Let's make it renewables, so that the employed can feel as though they're contributing to a better and environmental society, rather than an area that has great potential for damage.

– Seeing New York City institute a permanent bans on coal seam gas, suggests that we should follow suit, as there are clearly grounds for a ban.

– 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.

Thank you.

**Simone Hill**

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