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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2015 5:23 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 you regarding the current discussion of Coal Seam Gas in Victoria. I wish to inform you that I am strongly opposed to this source of energy, and feel that it is harmful to the environment and short-sighted and irresponsible of any society to implement such a source of energy supply. Victoria does not need this source of energy supply, and I implore you to not allow this industry to commence work in Victoria. Jurisdictions like New York City and Ohio have already instituted permanent bans on coal seam gas, and if New York as one of the largest cosmopolitan cities can do so, why can Victoria not follow suit?

This form of energy 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. It is possible to make a planned transition to 100% renewables in Victoria, without the need for gas as a 'bridging' fuel if we invest in genuine renewable sources immediately, such as solar and wind power.

This is likewise not a solution to employment. By supporting renewable energy, this will provide more jobs that continue into the future (key word here: RENEWABLE!), and lead to greater long-term employment growth in Victoria, as we continue to grow and develop a burgeoning industry and improve this. Through research and development, installation and maintenance, this will keep employment going, rather than just dig it up and "whoops it's gone".

As I'm sure you have already heard, Coal seam gas carries massive and proven risks for the environment and health. It threatens our environment, land productivity, agricultural industries, water supply, communities and public health. These risks are far too great to be mitigated, and are not outweighed by any benefits. Please do not ignore them, or deny them. Please remember that it was only a few years ago that the majority of society, including the majority of leading politicians, that denied climate change stating it was scaremongering (because obviously people fancy making up stories like that for their own personal enjoyment). These same people are now claiming that it does exist but is "not man made". The question is not why people would chose to make up myths about climate change, but why politicians and the media are so determined to deny at all costs the actuality of it.

Coal seam gas is not wanted by Victorian communities. At least 30 communities have already declared themselves gasfield-free, and the number continues to grow. Please respect the wishes of these communities, please consider my submission and that of others who care about the health and welfare of Victorians and the world as a whole, and please think of your reputations when future generations ask why you didn't do anything to stop a crisis that was well within your control.

Kind regards,
Stephanie Johnston

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