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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2015 4:57 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Submission to the Environment & Planning Committee Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I wish to add my views re coal seam gas being used as a future fuel source in Victoria. I am very disturbed when I hear Australia being compared to the USA in terms of coal seam gas as an energy source. The USA is a very different geology - and they do not have a Great Artesian Basin - in fact most Americans have never heard of such a geological wonder. And most Australians, including our own scientists, don't truly understand the purposes it serves, its control/impact on our water tables across Eastern states.

I am concerned that any fracking for coal seam gas will have unintended consequences on our land and water, both now and into the future. We can't eat gas - to me preserving our productive farm land is 100 times more important than providing an income source for the gas energy industry.

As well - we don't need an unconventional gas industry in Victoria to supply energy. CSG 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 don't need it as 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.

Also we don't need a coal seam 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.

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.

I, as a rural land owner of land in rural Victoria with a known coal seam underneath - which proved unproductive and too expensive to pursue in the 19th Century will be locking the gate! Instead enjoying the views of wind farms located < 2 kms away !

susan meyer

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