

Rec 6.10.15

Submission 1084

Keir Delaney
Secretary
Environment & Planning Committee
Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria
Parliament of Victoria
Spring St
East Melbourne

Submission Coal Seam Gas in South Gippsland Victoria

We wish to submit, as a submission to the Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria, a petition which was presented to the South Gippsland Shire on August 26, 2015 on behalf of the signed names. The Petition was based on the article "Local councils weigh in on gas debate" in the Weekly Times June 17, 2015.

The map shows the councils in Victoria which have a policy on Coal Seam Gas and those that do not. Our Shire, the South Gippsland Shire, does not have a policy. While the South Gippsland Shire does support the moratorium it has continually refused the requests of the south Gippsland rate payers asking for a total ban on Coal Seam Gas in South Gippsland.

We are disappointed that our Shire made a poor representation to the inquiry in Sale but did not submit a submission to the parliamentary enquiry by the 10 July. The South Gippsland Shire has not voiced the concerns of their rate payers, but they stated instead that they will wait for the interim report to be released and they, based on the report, they may submit a response and that they may submit the petition as part of their response.

We feel let down by our shire in that they have not represented the rate payer's views on the issue of Coal Seam Gas, but instead their personal views have been put forward.

While councils do not make the final decision on the approval of Coal Seam Gas mining, they do represent the rate payers and therefore their submission to the inquiry would be on behalf of the South Gippsland rate payers. The poor representation and lack of public consultation by the South Gippsland Shire shows that they are not acting in the best interest of the rate payers.

Council has constantly refused many requests to have a forum or an information session on coal seam gas. Up until recently the council's website had out of date

information on coal seam gas. It was not until this outdated information was pointed out to the shire that they chose to update some of the information.

This petition conducted over a four week period and was signed by over 1,700 residents of South Gippsland and this clearly shows that the South Gippsland residents are concerned about this industry and want a permanent ban on unconventional gas in South Gippsland.

We advocate, on behalf of the people who signed the petition, that a total ban on unconventional gas be adopted.

As the South Gippsland Shire has only stated that they may include this petition with their response to the inquiry, if they choose to respond, we feel that it should not be left to chance that this petition is made known to the inquiry.

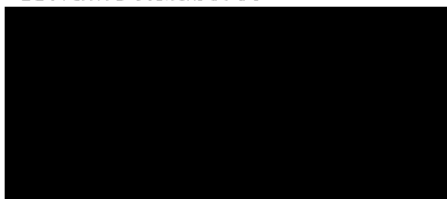
Please accept this petition and take it in to consideration when making your final report into your findings on unconventional gas mining in Victoria.

Yours Sincerely

Maree Goodwin



Lorraine Halabarec



A petition was received attached to this submission with "1700" signatures