

Dear Rod Thomas,

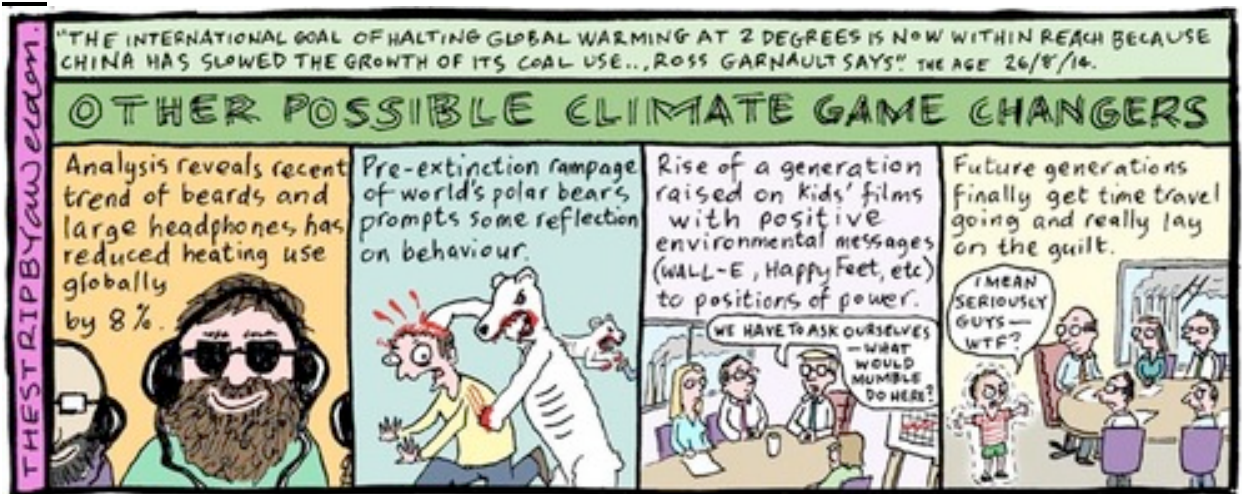
My submission expresses my opposition to onshore gas extraction in the Geelong Region and all of Victoria.

I ask that the COGG Councillors represent us by calling on the resources minister to disallow onshore gas extraction in the Geelong Region.

The reasons for my submission fall into three categories, represented by these images and a copy of a letter from Doctors for the Environment:

1. Protect the Environment.
2. Create Renewable Energy Jobs.
3. Protect our Health.

1.1



2. Clean Renewable Energy and Employment



L. Managing Director of Austeng - North Geelong. Manufacturers of Wind Turbines.

R. Welders at Austeng - North Geelong

3. COPY of letter from Doctors for the Environment Australia

Doctors for the Environment Australia
67 Payneham Road
College Park SA 5069
Phone: 0422 974 857
Email: admin@dea.org.au

11 June 2014
Mr Richard Warburton AO LVO
Chair
Renewable Energy Target Review
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Dear Mr Warburton,
Re: Health and the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review

I am writing to you on behalf of Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) to express our deep concern about the process and expected outcomes of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review.

We are concerned that the views you have expressed publicly demonstrate inadequate appreciation of climate change as an issue of critical importance to community health in Australia.

We feel these views are at odds with all major scientific, medical, and financial organisations and are a significant impediment to proper consideration of this important issue.

In particular we understand that ACIL Allen will not account for the health benefits of the RET in modelling for the RET Review. Failing to account for these externalities, or hidden costs, will inevitably result in a biased outcome that fails to account for the very significant health and associated economic costs of fossil fuels. Policies based on these false assumptions are injurious to human health in the short and long term and impede Australia's development of new renewable technologies while competitors gain further advantage.

For these reasons, we have decided not to make a submission to the RET review. DEA is of the opinion that your committee is ill equipped to examine the community health and social impacts arising from a dilution of the RET.

The National Inventory shows that emissions from electricity generation in 2013 fell by 5.0 per cent (9.3 million tonnes)' Factors that contributed were; a fall in electricity demand (2.8 per cent lower across the National Electricity Market) and a shift towards cleaner sources of generation.

Generation from brown coal (down 6.9 per cent) and black coal (down 4.1 per cent), as well as natural gas (down 7.7 per cent) continued their decline, while double-digit growth was recorded by both hydro (up 17.7 per cent) and non-hydro renewable energy sources (up 23.1 per cent). The combined effect of a price on carbon and the

input of CEFC and ARENA have supported the move to renewables and this move would be undermined by any decrease, or even uncertainty, in commitment to the RET. We would stress that the 5% reduction in these emissions is an important health advance for it constitutes a reduction in air pollution.

In Australia, approximately 3000 deaths can be attributed to urban air pollution annually – double the national road toll¹. Extrapolating from NSW figures on pollution, approximately 1500 of these deaths resulted from fossil fuel electricity generation. Because there is a well established relationship between ambient air pollution and mortality rates, a 5% reduction in air pollution levels should equate to 75 lives saved in 2013 and each subsequent year.

Air pollution further adversely affects health by: increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke and lung cancer; exacerbating chronic respiratory disease, asthma and bronchitis; and, hindering lung development in children. This translates to increases in emergency department presentations, hospital admissions loss of productivity through illness and other well-documented economic costs.

Renewable energy has a particularly important role in enhancing the health and well being of rural communities, as these technologies, for example hosting wind turbines, provide direct income and employment opportunities in regional Australia.

There are serious questions as to whether the Government's Direct Action Policy will curb emissions and therefore provide comparable health benefits. Preserving the RET is therefore vital to protect health.

Please find *attached a statement from DEA further outlining the health and economic benefits of renewable energy. We offer to arrange meetings for you and for members of your committee with eminent experts who can provide a detailed briefing on the critical health importance of the RET.**

*(*note- not attached for COGG)*

Yours sincerely,
Professor Kingsley Faulkner AM MBBS FRACS
National Chair
Doctors for the Environment Australia

¹ Begg S, Vos T, Barker B, Stevenson C, Stanley L, Lopez A. The burden of disease and injury in Australia 2003. AIHW cat. no. PHE 82. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2007, viewed 12 August 2011, [www.aihw.gov.au/bod/index.cfm\(link is external\)](http://www.aihw.gov.au/bod/index.cfm(link is external)).

The following are members of our Scientific Committee and support the work of Doctors for the Environment Australia
Prof. Stephen Boyden AM; Prof. Peter Doherty AC; Prof. Bob Douglas AO; Prof. Michael Kidd AM;
Prof. David de Kretser AC; Prof. Stephen Leeder AO; Prof. Ian Lowe AO; Prof. Robyn McDermott;
Prof. Tony McMichael AO; Prof. Peter Newman; Prof. Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal AC; Prof. Hugh Possingham; Prof. Lawrie Powell AC; Prof. Fiona Stanley AC; Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM; Dr Norman Swan;
Prof. David Yencken AO

Note re: distribution of this letter from DEA - You must acknowledge DEA appropriately and you must not distribute content that you have modified. Except where otherwise noted, content on this site is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution, No Derivatives 4.0 International License.

[END of DEA LETTER]

1.2 Damage to Environment

