

From: Alan Manson [mailto:frackfreegrovedale@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2015 3:03 PM
To: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au
Cc: lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au; james.merlino@parliament.vic.gov.au; lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au; minister.health@health.vic.gov.au; Chloe Aldenhoven; FrackFree Moriac
Subject: Fwd: Victorians are Very Concerned About CSG Mining under Sydney Residents Houses

Hon. Daniel Andrews MP – Premier of Victoria

Copies to:

Hon. Hon James Merlino	Deputy Premier
Hon Liliana (Lily) D'Ambrosio	Minister for Industry and Minister for Energy and Resources
Hon Jill Hennessy	Minister for Health
Hon Lisa Neville	Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water



Dear Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers,

I am writing on behalf of my members to remind you that I wrote you an email over 5 weeks ago expressing our concerns about the illegal activities of the CSG mining industry in both NSW and Queensland; but I have not received any response from you or your ministers. Our group is deeply saddened that Lisa Neville was the only person to respond (attached); however she simply handballed the matter to the Minister for Environment, Lily D'Ambrosio who has not bothered to provide a response. We wonder why your government has nothing to say about this vital matter Mr. Andrews?

In my email (below), I demonstrated how irresponsible (or 'criminal') those directing operations in the CSG industry really are. I used the incident of a mining company dumping radioactive 'produced water' onto public roads as an example of the criminality of these companies putting public health at risk. I also demonstrated how CSG companies in NSW are illegally dumping produced water into the State's sewage systems and hence the marine environment.

Since then, it has come to our attention that Senator Glenn Lazarus from the Palmer United Party in Federal Parliament has brought much needed public attention to the plight of Queenslanders who have been suffering the effects of the CSG mining industry upon their health and welfare for several years. I urge you to view this 13 minute video of Senator Lazarus speaking in Parliament recently where he highlighted many of the industry's environmentally bad and often immoral business practices
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyqWX1Vfj0g>.

It has also come to our attention that CSG Mining companies throughout the world consistently break laws that govern their operations – because they know they can get away with it. I urge you to read this brief article that describes the laws they regularly break (as listed below) <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1257964-4-ways-fracking-companies-break-the-rules/>:

1. Allowing toxic chemicals to flow off drilling sites and into local soil and water.

2. Endangering drinking water through improper well construction.
3. Dumping industrial waste into local waterways.
4. Otherwise disposing of waste improperly.

Given the evidence both here and below that prove *criminals* are running CSG mining companies - because they have no regard for the environment, the State's laws or for other people's rights; I believe there is no need to have a Parliamentary Inquiry into the industry regarding its "science" - because the science has proven to be flawed, and the credibility of those operating these companies has also been proven that they cannot be trusted.

This industry should have a complete ban placed on it Mr. Andrews. The history of its destructive environmental damage is there to be seen in every country that it operates.

Therefore, I urge you to respond to this email Mr. Andrews, as our members are becoming concerned about your government's silence on addressing the matters raised in these emails.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Manson

Convenor
Frack Free Grovedale
<https://www.facebook.com/frackfreegrovedale>

----- Forwarded message -----

from: Alan Manson <frackfreegrovedale@gmail.com>
to: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au
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date: Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 5:01 PM
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mailed-by: gmail.com

Hon. Daniel Andrews MP – Premier of Victoria

Copies to:

Hon. Hon James Merlino	Deputy Premier
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Dear Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers,

I was very interested to learn on [ABC news](#) that your government has extended the moratorium on CSG (Fracking) until a parliamentary inquiry into the industry is complete – presumably towards the end of this year.

I am writing to say how disappointed a number of our group members are that this statement appears to be a déjà vu situation in relation to the Smart Meter Rollout that commenced in Victoria some 4 years. The way we see this comparison is as follows:

- In 2006, the Brumby Labor Government established the Smart Meter Rollout.
- The then Liberal Opposition [ridiculed and rubbished](#) the rollout.
- In 2010, the incoming Baillieu Liberal Government placed a 12-month moratorium on the rollout while engaging 'experts' to evaluate the smart metering system.
- Not surprisingly, the consultants who produced the report gave Mr. Baillieu the approval that he wanted; and the government's Energy ministers then [hypocritically](#) administered the rollout.
- Since the rollout commenced, Victorians have experienced:
 1. Numerous house fires that were initiated from a smart meter.
 2. Electricity bills skyrocketing for no apparent reasons.
 3. Many people have become very ill from the Electro Magnetic Radiation being emitted from these meters. Some people have had to [abandon their homes](#) and move interstate in a desperate effort to avoid becoming chronically ill.
 4. Power companies refuse to attend to customer complaints about health and billing issues.
 5. The industry-funded Energy and Water Ombudsman (EWOV) refuses to handle smart metering issues apart from billing complaints.
 6. Government regulators such as the Essential Services Commission refuse to respond to any complaints about smart meter issues.
 7. Politicians on both sides of the political fence refuse to assist their constituents who claim they have been adversely affected by their smart meter – particularly with health related issues.

With the CSG (Fracking) issue becoming clearer, we now see a similar pattern emerging between the two rollouts:

- The Brumby Labor Government in 2002 signed the various Petroleum Exploration Permits for CSG exploration to proceed in designated areas throughout Victoria.
- The Napthine Liberal Government then placed a moratorium on the production phase of CSG mining [saying](#) "There will be no onshore gas industry in Victoria unless it's absolutely safe".
- Your incoming Labor Government has now [stated](#), "The Victorian Government will extend the current moratorium on coal-seam gas exploration and fracking until a parliamentary inquiry on the issue is complete."

If we gaze into the future to contemplate what fate awaits Victorians after the parliamentary inquiry is complete, this is what will happen if the Smart Meter Rollout is any guide:

1. The Parliamentary Inquiry will find CSG technology is "safe" but may need some additional safeguards.
2. Gas companies will then be given the go ahead to mine the gas.
3. Complaints throughout the affected regions about environmental destruction, children and adults getting sick and water aquifers being permanently damaged will engulf your government minister's offices, together with agencies such as EWOV.
4. As it was with the Smart Meter Rollout, ministers and those in their agencies will refuse to acknowledge any of the complaints regarding CSG activities. You and your ministers will establish a *merry-go-round* means of fobbing-off complainers – which means those affected by CSG will have to suffer their fate in the same manner as those who are suffering health and other issues from smart meters.

In other words, there is ample evidence available to prove conclusively that CSG mining is unacceptable on its health and environmental damage aspects alone – therefore why do you need a parliamentary inquiry to look into the matter if the facts are readily available Mr. Andrews? See [how many communities](#) throughout the world are banning fracking to appreciate that there is plenty of evidence available together with actions taken to ban it if you want to find it.

Those of us who live in the Geelong and Surfcoast regions are NOT HAPPY with your decision to hold a parliamentary inquiry into CSG mining – because it appears to be a smokescreen established to delay the inevitable approval to the mining companies.

Late last year, councillors from the City of Greater Geelong voted unanimously to oppose any CSG mining in their Greater Geelong region after undertaking exhaustive research into the impacts CSG would have in the region. Their decision was arrived at after 447 [submissions](#) expressed their opposition to CSG mining. Attached is a copy of my own submission to council for your information. Approximately [40 councils](#) throughout Victoria have announced their municipalities are to be kept Gas Field Free; so if a broad range of councillors are able to gather the information about CSG and vote on it, on what basis does your government need to establish a long, drawn out parliamentary inquiry?

Focussing on a more dangerous aspect of CSG mining, a recent Channel 7 (Sydney) news item highlighted community concerns about a CSG wellhead that bored holes underground (up to 2 km) under the homes of nearby residents, which were then fracked. See the image below from the Channel 7 news item.

In the video [interview](#), Narrellan Vale resident Pierre Power expressed his concerns that his

son had suffered nose bleeds apparently from the effects from CSG mining activities taking place underneath his family's home.



The image below illustrates what Tara residents in Queensland have had to suffer from the CSG miners for quite some time – children with nosebleeds, bleeding from their ears, bleeding from their anus's and many of these families forced to abandon their homes and communities because of the toxic substances being emitted into the environment from CSG operations.



As CSG operations are 'toxic' in every way, it is 'criminal' that such activity is allowed to proceed without any prior Environmental Impact Statements having been produced – together with little or no regulation from the government. Even when a company like [Santos poisoned a NSW water aquifer](#) and was prosecuted in court, the company was fined a paltry \$1,500 – which was less than what the protestors had to pay in fines. From our perspective, we wonder whether there is any justice available with this rogue industry.

Worse than this is the radioactive wastewater that a CSG mining company in Queensland is

not disposing of properly. I encourage you to view [this video](#) that demonstrates this wastewater being illegally dumped onto public roads. The image of the Geiger counter display (below) indicates a radiation level of 0.988 uSv (micro Sieverts) measured from this wastewater – which is highly dangerous to human health if ingested.



The danger here is that after this water is sprayed onto Queensland's hot bitumen roads, it evaporates. As road traffic passes over this wet area, the radioactive material is caught up in the steam and is then able to enter the inside of vehicles through the vehicle's open windows or air-vents – therefore exposing the occupants to radioactive poisoning. Such poisoning of Australian citizens is a criminal act Mr. Andrews, and this video demonstrates the criminal conduct of those involved in this dumping radioactive wastewater. A similar situation has occurred with [Metgasco](#) and [AGL](#) in NSW recently. But do governments approving CSG operations care what happens to the environment or to the safety and welfare of the people it purportedly represents? Obviously not with CSG in Queensland as [this video](#) also proves.

Therefore, I would appreciate receiving your response to the issues raised above and to the questions below.

Questions

1. Geelong and Surfcoast residents living in PEP 163 boundary (below) have become increasingly concerned that future CSG mining activities involving fracking wells may impact their properties and potentially affect their health sometime this year – as has happened in Sydney recently.



The Geelong / Surfcoast suburbs and towns affected by the above licence are:

- Ceres
- Highton
- Wandana Heights
- Grovedale
- Waurin Ponds
- Mt. Duneed
- Connewarre
- Torquay
- Bells Beach
- Jan Juc
- Bellbrae
- Anglesea
- Gerang
- Freshwater Creek
- Moriac
- Deans Marsh
- Lake Modewarre

Question: Are you able to provide **any assurance** to these residents that **NO CSG mining** will take place underneath their homes – now or in the future?

2. Given that 40 communities across Victoria (including 11 in Western Victoria) have declared themselves 'Gas Field Free', will these declarations have any influence on your decision-making process about lifting the moratorium on CSG mining?
3. Does it concern you that Queensland communities are being poisoned by radioactive fracking wastewater being dumped on public roads and into public sewage systems?

If so, would such activity influence your decision to approve CSG mining in Victoria?

4. The Fracking industry has a history of falsifying signs on its vehicles to mislead the public into believing their trucks are transporting "Fresh Water" but in reality these vehicles carry radioactive wastewater. Please refer to the evidence in the Queensland video above that supports this claim.

In America, trucks carry fracking's toxic wastewater are occasionally involved in traffic accidents – which causes a number of difficulties for emergency personnel who have to attend the scene; together with residents who have to live with the remains of the spill later. [Quote:](#)

HARRISBURG, Pa. — One of the first things a firefighter or police officer must know when rushing to a heavy truck crash in the heart of Marcellus Shale country: Don't believe what it says on side of the truck.

"We've had accidents where it said 'fresh water' on the side of the truck," said Craig Konkle, energy development emergency services coordinator for Lycoming County. "But when it started leaking black liquid, we knew we weren't dealing with fresh water."

While environmental concerns dominate much of the debate about the effect of gas drilling in rural Pennsylvania, Konkle said the single greatest threat to public safety is on the roads.

Question: In view of the dangerous nature of the chemicals being transported by this industry 24/7 throughout communities– and of the deceptive labelling used; would such activity influence your decision to approve CSG mining in Victoria?

Mr. Andrews, as certain residents of the Geelong and Surfcoast regions are very concerned about the matters raised here, I would appreciate receiving a prompt reply from you personally and not from one of your advisors so that I can circulate your response to them.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Manson

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