

## Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

We wish to lodge our strong objection to Fracking anywhere, but especially in the Moriac/Paraparap area. We love the strong community spirit that is present in this community and we are all willing to unite as one when needed. Moriac recently had a survey of all residents and it found that we as a community reject unconventional gas. Moriac has a fantastic reputation as a great place to bring up a family and the area has very little land left for sale fracking could have a very negative impact on local land values and further expansion of the town.

In particular, when surveys were conducted in our immediate area of Paraparap, 92% wished to declare the area gas field free. Our family has lived in this region for almost 40 years and both our daughters have also settled in the area. We have a small hobby farm and purchased here as it is one of the most pristine areas on the Surf Coast. Living outside the town itself, we are especially gifted with the serenity and peacefulness that comes from living in a farming community. Nobody wants to live in a place long term that has mining operations nearby. The noise from construction of the wells will also interfere with the health of livestock and the transport of the gas from the wells will increase the wear and tear on public roads. The Geelong Veteran's Bike Club is nearby and these roads are used extensively by not only the region's bike riders, but international riders also train in the area when major events are staged in and around Geelong.

We absolutely see no upside to fracking or any other unconventional extraction of gas in our rural haven.

There is scientific evidence mounting in areas using fracking that groundwater quality is degraded. The Geelong and Bellarine population receives 70% of their reticulated water from the Barwon River system, some of which includes groundwater from the Gerangamete bore-field. The quality and chemistry of this water could be adversely affected by future mining, such as the fracking process, that uses toxic chemicals, plus great volumes of water, to extract gas from deep underground. There has been no guarantee, from anybody, that groundwater will not be contaminated, and that residue water coming back to the surface, immediate or long-term (when the well is capped, and the mining company has left) – will not find its way into the water catchment system.

I have recently visited places like Karratha and Port Headland which have a large transient population of miners they are sad places that had little appeal. Even though we are writing this as individuals, I know that the whole surrounding community is of the same opinion and on this matter we stand strongly together as a community who has **"Locked The Gate"**.

**Clive and Pamela Newman**