

## Unconventional Gas Ban

At its meeting yesterday, South Gippsland Shire Council carried a motion to support a ban on the unconventional gas industry in Victoria until it can be proven to be safe.

The Minority Report on the Inquiry Into Onshore Unconventional Gas in Victoria by Harriet Shing MLC and Shaun Leane MLC recommends that the Victorian Government introduce a permanent ban on the exploration and extraction of unconventional gas.

In keeping with the conclusion of that minority report, Council will support the banning of unconventional gas until it can be determined that the impacts will not adversely affect the environment, economy or community.

Council endorsed the key recommendations of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry that suggest further research is undertaken and risk mitigation controls are put in place to address any future impacts.

Council seeks to ensure that coal seam gas and other mining does not adversely impact on farming and the Shire's clean food image.

Future tourism and agricultural business is closely linked to the economic welfare of the region. It is Council's priority to ensure these sectors are protected without compromise.

Legislative and administrative decision making on unconventional gas remains vested with the Victorian Government.

Mayor of South Gippsland Shire, Councillor Bob Newton said supporting the ban on unconventional gas was decided unanimously by Council.

"Supporting a ban on the unconventional gas industry in Victoria ensures we can protect our local agricultural and tourism sectors from any risks associated with unconventional gas.

"Without knowing any potential impacts of unconventional gas we are unwilling to support an industry that may reduce the prosperity and future development of South Gippsland," said the Mayor.

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