

[Redacted]

To whom it may concern

Petroleum Regulatory Impact Statement

The role of **[Redacted]** includes regulation of the take and use of water, licensing of bores, farm dams licensing, underground disposal, and management of major dams and irrigation districts in southern Victoria.

Much of Victoria's conventional onshore gas reserves are along the southern coastline managed by **[Redacted]**. The Victorian Gas Program's suggests that *environmental studies showed that developing these gas resources to secure local gas supply would not compromise the state's groundwater supplies or agricultural sector.*

In the past **[Redacted]** has licensed take and use of water from coal seam gas and storage of gas underground. Gippsland's groundwater resources are strongly influenced by extraction of hydrocarbons offshore. Therefore, until further investigation confirms the limit of impacts from conventional gas projects **[Redacted]** supports a cautious approach to ensure groundwater resources are not compromised.

Broadly **[Redacted]** supports the outcome of the impact statement notwithstanding, that approvals will need to have regard for the Water Act.

For further information please contact **[Redacted]**.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]