

## **7. URGENT BUSINESS/PETITIONS/NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **7.1 Coal seam gas mining**

#### **Surf Coast Shire Council**

#### **Notice of Motion**

#### **NOM-118**

I, Councillor Margot Smith, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 26 November 2013, I intend to move the following motion:

#### **Motion**

That Council write to the State Premier, the Minister for Energy & Resources, the Member for Polwarth and the Member for South Barwon:

1. Reaffirming Council's support for the continuation of the current moratorium on coal seam gas exploration and operations; and
2. Requesting a comprehensive investigation into the likely effects of unconventional gas exploration and mining on public health, the environment, agriculture and food security, local communities and tourism.

#### **Rationale**

The State Government is currently considering a report on coal seam gas mining in Victoria. The report recommends support for coal seam gas mining, including hydraulic fracturing, proceeding in Victoria.

Council is aware of two current approvals relating to unconventional gas exploration in the Shire – one for coal seam gas held by Western Victoria Energy Pty Ltd and one for tight gas held by Mirboo Ridge Pty Ltd (Lakes Oil).

Unconventional gas mining is a matter of serious concern to communities in the Shire. A community meeting on coal seam gas was held in Moriac on 13 November 2013 and a further community meeting is scheduled for Deans Marsh on 25 November 2013. Both these communities are considering declaring themselves 'coal seam gas' free consistent with 'Lock the Gate' campaigns conducted in Queensland, New South Wales and Gippsland.

There are significant potential risks from coal seam gas mining, including adverse impacts on key industries like tourism and agriculture, public health and wellbeing implications and environmental implications, including potential contamination of groundwater.

Council previously resolved on 22 August 2012 to call on the Victorian Government to institute a moratorium on all new coal seam gas exploration and operations until there had been a comprehensive investigation into the likely effects of the industry on the environment and local communities. This investigation has still not occurred. It is critical that a comprehensive investigation be conducted and the results shared with the public before the State Government gives any consideration to lifting the current moratorium.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

**Cr Margot Smith**  
**Councillor**

Date: 18 November 2013



# Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Tuesday, 26 November 2013

To be held at  
Council Chambers  
1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay  
Commencing at 6.00pm

**Council:**

Cr Rose Hodge (Mayor)  
Cr David Bell  
Cr Libby Coker  
Cr Eve Fisher  
Cr Clive Goldsworthy  
Cr Brian McKiterick  
Cr Rod Nockles  
Cr Margot Smith  
Cr Heather Wellington