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