

# Unconventional Gas Inquiry - Torquay Hearings



Mayoral Presentation

Cr Margot Smith  
12 August 2015

# Welcome to the Surf Coast

- Council welcomes the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Unconventional Gas
- Council is pleased to host the Inquiry here in Torquay



12 August 2015

# Community Interest & Concern

- Very strong community interest and concern regarding the potential for unconventional gas in the Shire
- Several communities have declared themselves 'frack' or 'gasfield' free
- Unconventional gas forums held in the Shire have attracted large numbers of people



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# Council Position

- Council has made several resolutions on this matter
- Until the impacts are fully understood and can be managed, the State Government should not be authorising unconventional gas development
- In June 2015, Council resolved to oppose the exploration and mining of unconventional gas in the Shire



# About the Shire



Over 3,000 businesses and an economy worth \$1 billion annually

A unique and distinct economy with the surf sector and nature based tourism playing critical roles





Tourism also vital – up to 2 million visitors annually spending over \$510 million annually

Rural hinterland emerging as key economic pillar for Shire and source of job creation



# Importance of Natural Landscapes

Our natural landscape of world famous beaches, state and national parks is critical in attracting approx. 2 million visitors annually

Our pristine environment also attracts signature events for the Shire, including:

- Bells Beach Rip Curl Pro
- Falls Festival
- Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race
- Amy's Gran Fondo



# Incompatible Industry



- Unconventional gas operates on important farmland and landscapes
- Given the importance of such assets in our Shire, we believe the industry is inappropriate for our region and puts at risk key economic growth sectors that generate thousands of jobs.



# Environmental Leadership & Renewable Energy

- Council is committed to environmental leadership and will exceed its 30% emissions reduction target 4 – 5 years early
- The current focus on gas perpetuates an outdated energy model
- Council seeks stronger commitments to renewable energy from both the federal and state government



Thank You

Pleasure to host the Inquiry on the Surf Coast

We wish you an enjoyable and productive hearing

