

PRESS RELEASE

Announcement by Hon. Tom Koutsantonis Gas grants and new exploration to boost local supply.

The Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council (LCGWC) applauds the SA government on taking action to stabilise and strengthen the states electricity grid.

The inclusion of unconventional gas development in the South East as part of this process is however, in contrast to the findings of the SA Parliamentary Inquiry into UGD in the South East of South Australia, completed in December 2016.

The bi-partisan Inquiry took two full years to work through 178 submissions and 66 witness presentations, looking at evidence from oil and gas companies, government departments, scientific organisations, many businesses and farmers in the Limestone Coast, and international experts. This was a substantial and thorough inquiry.

The recommendations of this Inquiry were that :

1. Without social licence, unconventional gas exploration/development should NOT proceed in the South East of South Australia.
2. Social licence does not yet exist in the South East.
3. “processes associated with unconventional gas extraction, including mid to long term well integrity and surface spills, present risks that need to be properly considered and managed”

The SA government appears to be ignoring the results of its own Inquiry, and proper process, in advocating for unconventional gas development in the Limestone Coast.

The LCGWC believes the geology of the South east is unsuited to this technology and as such poses unacceptable risks to the community and current sustainable enterprises already operating in the Limestone Coast and contributing \$3.3 billion (RDALC 2015) GDP per year to the SA economy

The Limestone Coast is an important part of the \$18.5 billion food and wine sector and the SA governments PIRSA program –“Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World”.

We note Beach Energy has received \$6 million from the State Government, for a new well near Penola and they have stated it will be conventional gas only, with no Fracking.

We note also that Minister Koutsantonis in released 5 new areas in the Limestone Coast for gas exploration, has excluded the Coonawarra wine region from these areas.

Unconventional Gas development in the Limestone Coast is not a necessary inclusion, to the solution to Australia's gas and electricity supply issues. Highly valuable agricultural land, soils and water resources must be protected for sustainable and safe production of our food and wine.

Further Information contact:

Pete Bissell- Chair Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council 0427 852 315.

Stuart Sharman - Chair LCGWC Fracking sub-committee. 0411 241 891.