



Victorian Gas Expansion Submission Guide

Thanks for taking action to tell the Victorian Government that we can't afford to explore for more gas along our coastlines (or anywhere!).

Right off the bat, we are unimpressed with the lack of useful information about the **two exploration projects under consideration** for tender. Without knowing what exploration methods are likely to be used, for how long these exploration projects will be valid or really much else except the location areas under option in both Gippsland and the Otway Basin, it's hard for the community to make informed comment.

What we do know is that there is no gas exploration possible without environmental impacts; onshore (as in Gippsland) or offshore (the Otway Basin). The climate cannot afford a single new fossil fuel project anywhere in the world. Australia doesn't need more gas – we already produce way more than we use and ship it to other countries at huge expense to our environment and the climate. Neither of these exploration projects should be under consideration and it's up to us to stop them from going ahead.

Your submission could not be more critically urgent.

Submission deadline is 9 September 2025.

There are **two ways to write your submission** using the [Engage Victoria website](#). There is a **survey form**, or you have the opportunity to **upload a longer, more comprehensive written submission**, or you can do both. Whichever option you choose, we recommend you use your own words to ensure that your submission is individual and counted as such.

Step 1: Visit the [submission portal on Engage Victoria](#).

Scroll down and click the 'complete the survey or make a submission button.

How to participate

You can provide feedback by completing the survey or uploading a written submission.

[Complete the survey or make a submission](#) ↗

Closes at 11:59pm on 9 September 2025.

To get you started we have provided some talking points below which you can either use in the survey fields or in your own written and uploaded submission. Remember, your own feelings, knowledge and concerns matter - the Victorian government want to hear from you!

The Survey

Using the survey, the public is asked the same three questions for both the onshore Gippsland coastline area and the offshore Otways area. In our view, the questions are inadequate and we advise submitting a more comprehensive, written and uploaded submission. However, if you are strapped for time or for whatever reason feel more comfortable with the survey, here are some things you might consider including in your survey responses.

Question 1: Please provide comments on how the release of the areas in this region may impact you, the community or the environment.

This is your opportunity to **explain any personal connection** you might have to the coastline around Petersborough, between the Bay of Islands Coastal Park and the Bay of Islands Coastal Protection Reserve. But you are also encouraged to **discuss your concerns about marine health** including the sudden recent spike in marine heatwaves, climate change or anything else you believe relevant. Here are some ideas that you may want to include in your submission.

Bay of Islands ecosystems and threatened species - The geology of Bay of Islands Coastal Park, located on Victoria's Great Ocean Road, features towering limestone rock stacks and cliffs formed from the accumulation of marine sediments over millions of years. A favourite holiday destination in Victoria, the coastal park habitats support iconic bird species like the threatened Hooded Plover and Rufous Bristlebirds. Pygmy Blue Whales, Southern Right Whales, Australian Fur Seals and Australasian Gannets rely on the coastal waters for migration and feeding. It is also home to some of the once abundant and now rapidly vanishing last remaining Giant Kelp forests in Victoria. Marine and Coasts Victoria tell us that

Ocean impacts – Whether it's seismic blasting offshore or drilling from onshore to offshore gas fields, gas exploration and production devastates marine environments, all to release a potent climate changing fuel into our atmosphere. Climate change is already hot-housing our oceans, leading to widespread destruction in marine environments. The ocean shouldn't have to pay for our governments' inability to say no to the gas industry. Our oceans can't afford for either of these exploration projects to proceed and they should not be under consideration.

Fisheries – Victoria’s fishing industry is already under threat from the impacts of runaway climate change and associated acidification on the Southern Ocean. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority [released modelling earlier this year](#) that shows a forecast decline of many fish species of 20% in the next fifteen years. The commercial fishers of Victoria deserve better than yet another fossil fuel project placing further pressure on their industry.

Community recreation – [Parks Victoria](#) promotes Bay of Islands beach for recreational boating. Gas exploration and any subsequent production of methane will reduce or remove entirely this opportunity for locals and visitors to the area.

General environmental impacts – Methane gas, from exploration through production, use and decommissioning is heavily polluting and damaging. Seismic blasting is the release of a Hiroshima bomb’s worth of noise every 4-10 seconds and profoundly impacts or even destroys everything in its path. Onshore drilling releases climate polluting methane and other toxins into the soil and devastates farmland. We can no longer justify the heavy burden of the gas industry on our land or oceans, particularly when clean energy alternatives are already providing a credible alternative.

Climate change – five years ago the International Energy Agency told the world that we could not afford a single new fossil fuel project if we were to avoid cataclysmic climate change. At COP28 in 2022, the Albanese government signed the Global Methane Pledge, committing to reduce methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. Since then new gas projects have been given approval around the country. Victoria, as the heaviest residential gas using state in Australia has a particular responsibility to say no to new gas projects and switch to clean energy if we are to meet our state and federal emissions reduction and renewable energy targets.

We don’t need more gas and we know it – By the time any company has explored for gas, possibly found it, produced it and processed it for the market the gas industry will be long dead, and rightfully so. The gas shortfalls predicted by national energy regulator for Victoria have been pushed back year after year due to decreasing demand. Victoria is already on the path to phase out gas, and reducing demand by electrifying homes and businesses is the way we’ll avoid gas shortfalls, while slashing climate pollution. New gas exploration or production is as unnecessary as it is profoundly damaging.

Question 2: How do you think we could best keep you, your local community and other stakeholders informed about this tender and the outcome?

In our view this is a ridiculous question – people have to enter their email address to submit to this consultation so surely this would be the logical way to communicate. We don’t recommend spending a great deal of time on this question, but you may also want to

advocate for publications in all mainstream media including local print and broadcast as well as geotargeted social media advertising.

Question 3: Do you have any ideas for us to consider that would minimise the impact on you, the community or the environment?

You may want to mention that with so little detail provided on the Engage Victoria submission portal, it's **hard to comment on the range of likely impacts** and call on the State Government to **release more information** about the exploration projects under tender.

This question is deeply flawed - it suggests that the projects under consideration for tender have already been decided and all we as a community can hope for is minimised impact, rather than no gas exploration at all. But this is nonsense when clearly the best way to minimise impact is not to explore for gas in the first place. There is no safe level of greenhouse gas output. There is no safe way to explore for or produce gas. We suggest that you urge the Victorian Government to not open up any areas for gas exploration. In summary we simply suggest that you advise the Government to abandon plans for further gas exploration in Victoria.

Don't forget [submissions must be made through the Engage Victoria](#) portal by 9 September so please submit and tell your friends!

If you need any further support please contact info@ocean.org.au

