

The Geelong and Bellarine population in Victoria receives 70% of their reticulated water from the Barwon River system, some of which includes groundwater from the Gerangamete bore-field. The quality and chemistry of this water could be adversely affected by future mining, such as the fracking process, that uses toxic chemicals, plus great volumes of water, to extract gas from deep underground. There has been no guarantee, from anybody, that groundwater will not be contaminated, and that residue water coming back to the surface, immediate or long-term (when the well is capped, and the mining company has left) – will not find its way into the water catchment system.

If we want to promote our district (and support all those areas within G21 Shire conglomerate) as producers and protectors of quality agricultural items, and that we value eco-tourism and the jobs that it brings – it might well be that, in this instance, mining, water harvesting and agriculture pursuits are not compatible – and therefore not in our long-term interests, or the interest of our grandchildren.

Trevor Jennings,