

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government
in the Legislative Council



Friday, 16 November 2018

BANNING FRACKING TO PROTECT GIPPSLAND FARMERS FOR GOOD

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will enshrine our legislated ban on fracking in the Constitution of Victoria, protecting our prime agricultural land for good, and ensuring the world knows our food is frack free.

Victoria has some of the cleanest and greenest food and fibre in the world, with Gippsland dairy, beef, horticulture and cropping second-to-none. Our primary producers are truly world leaders. That's why we banned fracking – to protect our farmland and our reputation.

Farmers across Gippsland have made it clear that they want to protect the industry and their land from the impacts of fracking and coal seam gas operations.

Labor will also provide \$1 million for export focused marketing activities, to promote our clean and green food and fibre sector to the world.

This investment will fund a number of Minister-led inbound and outbound trade missions, bringing leaders from agriculture, food processing and government together with major purchasers of agricultural exports.

The campaign will kick off next year, capitalising on the Global Table event in Victoria in 2019. Global Table will be the largest food business event ever staged in Australia, with more than 5,000 participants.

It will involve a series of internationally-focused business events that will promote Victoria as the destination for investors and traders to connect with business leaders from across the globe.

Victoria's agricultural sector exports \$13 billion in food and fibre products each year and employs over 190,000 people.

The *Resources Legislation Amendment (Fracking Ban) Act* passed the Victorian Parliament in March last year, banning all onshore unconventional gas exploration and development, including hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'.

But the Liberals don't believe in the ban and will remove it the first chance they get. They've promised to cut resources red tape – that is code for bringing back fracking. This would destroy our farming communities and put our valuable agricultural exports at risk.

This shows the deep division within Coalition ranks – while the Nationals talk a big game about protecting Victorian farmers, they'll always roll over for their Liberal masters.

That's why we'll make it even harder for a future Liberal National Government to remove the ban, so they can't destroy our prime agricultural land. We are proud to have banned fracking and only Labor will keep it that way for good.

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"Gippsland farmers produce some of the cleanest and greenest food and fibre in the world – we're determined to keep it that way. This is about protecting jobs and our global agricultural reputation."

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Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

“The Liberals back fracking and will remove this ban and sell out Gippsland farmers if they’re given the chance – we’re making sure they can’t.”

Quote attributable to Labor Candidate for Narracan Christine Maxfield

“Our local community has made it clear that we don’t want fracking in Gippsland putting at risk our clean, green image and all the jobs that depend on it. Only Labor will enshrine our ban against fracking in the Constitution.”

Quote attributable to Labor Candidate for Bass Coast Jordan Crugnale

“We’re protecting Bass Coast farmland and environment from fracking. Only Labor will stand up for regional jobs, businesses and communities here on the Bass Coast.”