

Personal submission to Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry on Fracking.

From

Jill Brown [REDACTED]

I live in Woodridge situated on the south side of the Moore River estuary, it is one of a dozen or so small rural residential communities that hug the coast travelling north to Lancelin. To the east of the coastal areas are other rural communities interspersed by small town sites farmland market gardens and agricultural producers which supply Perth and surrounds with essential food. Residents and businesses in the whole area from the coastal communities in the west and inland to the east lay directly over the Perth Basin Water Resource and are wholly dependent on clean pure fresh ground water drawn from the Perth Basin for their drinking water and all other uses. Perth Basin water resource is extremely vulnerable to contamination,....one accident caused by fracking could see the whole system irreparably damaged...

There are NO GUARANTEES, NO INSURANCES provided

Once a bore fails, and science tells us that in time they will all fail there is nothing that can be done to fix it... Nothing....It does not matter how many years this may take in the end failure will mean contamination **WILL** occur and we cannot leave this mess for future generations to reap the results of what we can stop happening right here and now

In WA Groundwater Aquifers provide 90% of the supply of drinking water, Regional Communities are completely without any sustainable alternatives to their current local sources of water

The WA Water Authority have stated there needs to be a complete ban on any extraction of unconventional gas from ANY areas where public and private bores are the only source...

The Department of Health states "If fracturing is done incorrectly the process has the potential to contaminate surface and underground drinking water sources" ,,, (DOH 2013) and it will

There have always been accidents and there have been Royal Commissions which inevitably follow serious water contamination, Sydney 1998 and Walkaton 2000. At which the importance of protecting drinking water sources from contamination was strongly emphasised.

People in Woodridge and surrounding areas are extremely anxious that Fracking will cause our groundwater to be contaminated and we fear that we face the possibility we could lose

the whole system. To us this would be the loss of everything that is dear to us, our homes our livestock our native bushland and all that lives and grows upon it. Our property would be valueless and breakdown of families and human health would cause great suffering.

There are genuine and proven concerns in regard to the chemicals that are used in gas extraction and fracture, **it is well known they are mostly noxious and incompatible with the requirements of the National Health and Medical Research Council for use in Public Drinking Water Supply Areas ... The public have a right to know what chemicals are proposed for use and to be informed of what risks can occur to the purity of the drinking water ...**

We know **Methane** can be stored in pockets hidden below the surface, with grave risks to human and environmental health if these pockets are punctured and released into the aquifer or brought to the surface in the process of drilling, Large quantities of our valuable groundwater is used in the process of drilling and this precious water mixed with sand and chemicals can flush back to the surface possibly with added methane or sulphur via the cavity in the dual lining of the well while drilling. The digging and development of collection and storage dams are required for catching this back flow, where does this toxic mixture end up??

If methane is released there is every chance of a dangerous FLARE up.... Woodridge is an area of native Banksia woodland with Tuart Eucalyptus and an abundance of Grass Trees..**In the event of bushfire Woodridge is now officially listed as 'Catastrophic'**. This classification may also apply to some of the other estates in the region . One Methane flare could cause widespread destruction of bushland that could also lead to human and animal fatalities. This is not an exaggeration,

I have lived in Woodridge for almost 20 years and been through one serious bush fire in that period thought to have been caused by a cigarette butt thrown out by a passing motorist on Indian Ocean Drive. Fortunately for me only half of my block was burned and my home and animals survived along with those of several other residential properties who suffered losses of bushland and items destroyed on that day. Our survival was due to the efforts of many volunteer and career fire fighters from all over the south west area who came to assist our local volunteers along with helitacs and fixed wing aircraft.. all very costly on the the Emergency purse...I cannot imagine what it would be like if it was started from a methane flare that could not be put out..

I could download via the internet dozens if not thousands of incidents of where Fracking has gone wrong. The Eastern States, America and Europe abound with them and in WA there was one not so long ago near Margaret River (*over the deep Yarragadee Aquifer!!*) **petroleum** was used in the fracking process and when it all went wrong the fuel was left in the ground and the top was plugged... what happens if that petroleum seeps into a pocket of methane.???. or some other flammable or explosive chemical that lays down there

unexpected and unseen...???.Does the fact that we cannot see it or know about it until it happens make it OK????...If so that is horrific and makes everyone complicit and liable for the consequences....**There is no doubt fracking for unconventional gas is too risky to be considered over our only ground water source, it puts it at drastic risk of serious risk of contamination** Nobody can predict these incidents will not occur

I am a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother of 16 and it sickens me to think they could be left a legacy of neglect by governments and authorities who were trusted to provide what is their absolute right to clean air and clean water It grieves me to see the loss of native flora and fauna and the heartbreak of those who seek to protect these rights We are handing over a planet riddled with puncture holes from mining all over its surface, punctures that have and will continue to leak noxious gases into an environment already chocking on Carbon emissions wrecking our climate...

We don't need this gas, we now have renewables capable of sustaining us..

NO GUARANTEES NO INSURANCES...The extraction of unconventional gas should not be undertaken over groundwater sources...It really does needs to stop NOW

Jill Brown 10 3 2018