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Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry
Locked Bag 33
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**SUBMISSION TO WA SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO
HYDRAULIC FRACTURE STIMULATION IN WA 2017**

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I am a farmer and have lived and farmed in the Badgingarra-Eneabba area since 1964. Since 1980 I have farmed my own property at Warradarge (Victoria Location 10825).

I am motivated to make a submission to this inquiry by the fact that this Central West area relies heavily on the underground water, and new projects are coming on stream that will need this water to be successful.

In general these farms and projects are serviced by water bores ranging in depth from 20 – 200 metres. My own bore and my neighbour's bores are in the 100-200 metre range. Those bores produce 4-6000 litres/hour. Deeper bores at up to 600-700 metres will produce unlimited water, i.e. 100,000 litres/hour.

If these aquifers are interfered with by fracking, the water levels may change or become mixed with the saline or bad (foul/contaminated) water and then become unusable.

Some of my concerns with the fracking companies that were witnessed on my neighbour's property when AWE Ltd did a test drill hole were:

- (i) the bullying tactics used to intimidate them (neighbours) into signing ridiculous agreements;
- (ii) the dividing of communities by freely offering cash and the promise of jobs (cash to local organisations) and a pittance of compensation to the farmers involved;
- (iii) property rights are/will be diminished, banks are less inclined to support projects in these areas; and

- (iv) most of the seismic companies that have been through testing this area have disbanded and disappeared. Who picks up the bill if there is trouble (from the exploration and/or fracking) or if there is a disaster?

My main concern about fracking in the coastal (or aquafer regions) is that the fight would be over water. I don't see how the existing industries and fracking could compete.

Not only the existing industries but many of the local towns (most of) rely on underground water.

In conclusion I would like to point out that a number of countries around the world have banned fracking. It is also to be noted that a number of States in Australia have also banned fracking - in certain areas.

I see these coastal regions of Western Australia just as important as the above and would be very concerned if the fracking was to go ahead here.

For your consideration.



J.R. Browne