



BUSSELTON WATER

Reference: D18/2251

Enquiries : [REDACTED]

Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry
Locked Bag 33
Cloisters Square
Perth WA 6850

19th March 2018

Dear Panel Members

Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry Submission

Busselton Water would like to raise a number of concerns relating to the potential impacts of fracking and unconventional gas exploration and extraction.

Busselton Water, a water corporation established under the Water Corporations Act 1995, provides potable water services to around 1,000 businesses and over 12,000 households in the South West of Western Australia. We rely solely on deep (up to 800 m) ground water aquifers to source our water. The water we use is mainly from the Yarragadee aquifer, and it is estimated to be over 30,000 years old.

The primary concern for Busselton Water is the potential for adverse impacts on groundwater aquifers through either pollution or hydraulic damage. Damage to the confining layers could cause water loss or mixing with poor quality aquifers. Disruption to the natural vertical stratification within the confined aquifers could cause zones of poor quality water to disperse into high quality zones.

Considering the difficulty in detecting pollution or hydraulic damage in a timely manner and the potentially irreversible impacts on the resource, a total exclusion zone should be considered in the vicinity of groundwater that is used for public drinking water supplies.

Another concern is the use of high quality water supplies in the exploration and extraction of unconventional gas and whether this is a good use of a limited resource.

Busselton Water appreciates the opportunity to provide input into this enquiry and remains hopeful that high quality water resources will be protected for current and future generations.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Elliot
CEO

