

Submission to:

W.A Scientific Enquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation
in W.A 2018.

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Organisations: Frack Free WA, Moora Catchment Council, Friends of the Moora Woodlands, Kerkhoff Carnaby Group.

In my submission I have decided to focus on the effect this industry will have on surface and ground water. I am a citizen here in Western Australia deeply concerned by the possibility that the Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation [Fracking] of unconventional gas and oil will be approved by our present state government resulting in the contamination and depletion of our very precious surface and ground water. The McGowan government since it was elected last year has put a ban on fracking for existing and future petroleum titles in the South West, the Peel and Perth regions with a Moratorium on the rest of the state until further research is done, including this Scientific Enquiry. I hope that the government will be strong enough to stand against any pressure that may be put on it to say yes to Fracking in our state.

From what I have read about this industry in the USA, other countries and now in Queensland there is no such thing as SAFE FRACKING. In all the information offered by this industry assuring us of its safety they will not state that there is NO RISK of a leakage or that if contamination does occur the water can and will be restored to purity. The International Association of Hydrologists concluded in its submission to the Hawke enquiry in 2015, that it is not possible to have zero % well integrity failure. Prof Anthony Ingraffee, ex industry engineer and leading unconventional gas expert, in 2012 describes well leakages as a chronic, ubiquitous well documented problem – Video: NSW Enquiry 2016.

The next thing that appalls me is the amount of water used to extract this gas. As stated by this industry a single gas frack uses 11-34 million litres of water in the fracking fluid. WA is Australia's driest state and we would agree to allow this finite resource to be squandered in this cavalier fashion, dependent as we are on our aquifers, with few large rivers, a problem with salinity and a drying climate is unbelievable.

I will mention here that 83% of the mining industry is foreign owned and that Australia gets very little financially from gas and coal production. Also that, employing less than 0.2% of the workforce, the oil and gas industry is one of the smallest employers in Australia.

As all fracking operations are within this state declared "Water Resource Areas"- selected Ref 13-14, why has this highly invasive industry been granted so many leases to explore and eventually to mine this unconventional gas without WA citizens being consulted? I am aghast that our beautiful state could become a gas field like parts of Queensland and the USA. Who will compensate us for the loss of our clean water? Who will compensate

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us for the contamination of our very important food growing regions? In my area, industries that are sustained by the Yaragadee North aquifer, potatoes, citrus, olives and livestock, with a drop in the water table and contamination of the water, will be destroyed and yet the unconventional gas industry was able to put down an exploratory well, in one of the farms, without the permission of the farmer involved, before the McGowan made its decision on fracking..

Living here in Moora, we are aware that our town water comes from the Yarageedee aquifer on the way to Dandaragan. At a meeting with an industry representative at Dandaragan 2 years ago, he was not aware of this. How can we trust an industry with such an irresponsible attitude to the protection of our water? This industry, based on fossil fuels, increases the large deliberate and fugitive emissions of methane gas, therefore contributing to climate change, thereby effecting our rainfall and then of course our aquifers.

South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Victoria have banned fracking. Why can't W.Australia just follow their example, making use of all their research and bring in a law stating that fracking will not be allowed in WA. All the evidence stacks up that we should do this.

The right to clean water is a basic human right and part of The Australian Environmental Protection Act covers the right of people to a sense of place and a sustainable supply of clean surface and ground water is certainly part of this.

Signed,

H.R. S Carter -

28th Feb 2018.

WATER FACTS

Millions of the world's poorest subsist on fewer than 19 litres of water per day



46% of people do not have water piped to their homes. Women in developing countries walk an average of 3.7 miles to get water

One out of eight people lacks access to clean water

3.3 mn die from water-related health problems each year



97.5% of the water on Earth is salty



Around 1% of that is brackish groundwater



In 15 years, 1.8 bn people will live in regions of severe water scarcity. There is a real possibility of **WATER WARS**

2.5% of the Earth's water is fresh. About two-thirds of that is frozen; the rest is liquid surface water and groundwater. That leaves less than one percent to grow our crops, cool our power plants, and supply drinking and bathing water for households

*We have been slow to give up on the myth of Earth's infinite generosity

Two-thirds of our water is used to grow food. With 83 mn more people on earth each year, water demand will keep going up unless we change how we use it



Australia has the 2nd highest water usage rate per person in the World at 485 litres per day, second only to the USA at 600 litres per person per day

The MSC Mission Office is a work of the Australian Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and while we try to love the world, the work of the MSC Mission Office has concentrated its energies. We have restricted ourselves to three main areas for financial assistance

1) CLEAN WATER PROJECTS 2) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH 3) HIV/AIDS LEPROSY

We also offer financial support for Priestly, Religious and Lay formation. While some of our Missionaries would like us to support the construction of buildings and the purchase of vehicles. Our preference is for monies to be used as Mother Therese would say, "To assist directly the poorest of the poor."

Through their activities, the proclamation becomes helping others, justice for the poorest, schools in remote villages, hospitals in isolated places, emancipation from poverty, rehabilitation of those who are marginalized, support for the development of peoples, overcoming ethnic divisions, respect for life.