

SUBMISSION TO THE WA FRACKING INQUIRY 2017-2018
BY WAYNE AND JILL CHARLES

Dear Inquiry Panel,

We oppose fracking in Western Australia.

The important things for us are: our water resources, protect the land for the future generations; not poison our water/land with chemicals that take thousands of years to dissipate. It will turn our food bowl into wasteland.

In risk management, you eliminate the risk first and inquiry needs to look at scientific information that proves fracking is dangerous. Please refer to: http://concernedhealthny.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/03/Fracking_Science_Compndium_5FINAL.pdf

There is no scientific proof that Fracking/unconventional gas mining is safe. In wells throughout the world and Queensland there is always leaking occurring of both methane and VOC's. The mere way the wells are constructed cannot guarantee the containment of these gases. Refer: Davies et al (2014) (5.7) this shows a review of reliable databases of well integrity from around the world and found that failure rates were highly variable from 1.9 to 75%!

The impact on the land and the industrialisation unconventional gas production creates is neatly demonstrated in a series of 'Before and After' photos of various forest and agricultural areas in Queensland. Refer: http://www.csgfreenorthwest.org.au/qlds_story. Our precious State Forests and agricultural land should not be destroyed as per this example.

Under WA Mining Act mining companies are required to return the land to its natural use – this is impossible with Fracking/unconventional gas mining.

The enquiry needs to consider the long term effects of the industry not the short term financial gain for the industry only who leaves the mess and clean for local people and government to clean up. Any rehabilitation would take hundreds of years.

The Fracking/unconventional gas industry does not have a credible record. This is demonstrated by referring the reports below that support their lack of credibility:

- Lock the Gate: A fractured State <http://www.dontfrackwa.com.au/2017/12/18/afracturedstate/>
- Australia's NWO Government – Fracking destroying our country - <https://ryedalefarmers.org/2017/12/11/australias-nwo-government-fracking-destroying-country-1/>
- The Gas Rush – ABC's 4 Corners Feb 2010
- Undermined: Nine's 60 Minutes 14 May 2010

Reports on experiences within Australia support the impact of Fracking/unconventional gas mining who suffer bore impairment from excess gas, please refer: <http://notatanycost.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/KCB-Gassy-Bore-Final-Report.pdf>

A perfect example of contamination to our water supply/rivers is shown in the report by Western Alliance: The risks of unconventional gas mining for land, water and life. Sept 2016: Refer: <https://www.westernrivers.org.au/>

History has proven industries wrong when they have said it safe and in the long term has shown they are not to the health of people and the environment, such as:

- Asbestos mining (<http://ehs.oregonstate.edu/asb-when>) and
- Lead mining (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead_poisoning) (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/>)

We don't want Western Australia or Australia as a whole to go down the same route as asbestos and lead mining to retrospectively say we should not have approved Fracking/unconventional gas mining because of severe health impacts on the people of Australia and our water and land resources. There is already enough scientific research to support this statement.

The Chemicals used in Fracking/unconventional gas mining are; methanol, ethylene glycol, naphthalene, xylene, toluene, ethylbenzene, formaldehyde and sulfuric acid. Some of these are known to be toxic, carcinogenic and associated with reproductive harm. Do we really want these chemicals in our water and land? Refer: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1307866/>. Industry refers to that the chemicals are just what is your kitchen cupboard; these include sulphur trioxide, sulfuric acid, ethylene oxide, sodium and potassium hydroxide are all poisons. Why would it be acceptable to put such chemicals in large quantities into water supplies.

We urge the inquiry to make a recommendation to permanently ban fracking and all unconventional gas mining in Western Australia. We should be a leader in banning such dangerous practices the same as: France July 2011, Bulgaria 2012, State of Vermont USA May 2012, New York December 2014 and Scotland January 2015, the State of Victoria March 2017. Let Western Australia lead the way with Victoria in Australia and ban Fracking in Western Australia in 2018.

Regards

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