

The Western Australia Fracking Enquiry,

I am Rona Chiera, I have 3 children, husband and I adore Western Australia, Australia .I love the fact that WA has great weather, great coastline, great agriculture, fabulous mining and a tourism industry. My interest in writing to the Fracking Enquiry is that the WA Government, newly elected have not properly considered the consequences of the old mining methods of fracking with chemical on our water supply or our community.

I would like the State Government to continue with the hold on the fracking of Western Australia as the State Government is putting jobs ahead and people's lives and health. What concern me is that the Government wants to BOOM the fracking industry in WA at the expense of lives, land and water and shamefully do no fracking where the Premier of WA resides and plays. Besides our water resources our agriculture is world class and this will have a destructive negative effect on everything else that stems off this, including tourism and medical.

### **The Top Ten Countries Proven Natural Gas Reserves are:**

Nearly 80% of the world's total proven natural gas reserves are located in ten countries. Russia tops the list, holding about a quarter of world's total gas reserves, followed by Iran and Qatar in the Middle East. Hydrocarbons-technology.com profiles the top 10 countries with the world's biggest proven gas reserves.

The Top Ten Countries are: Russia, Iran, Qatar, Turkmenistan, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAEmirates, Venezuela, Nigeria and Algeria.

The WA Government has increased the cost of gas to every household the moment they get elected in in 2017, knowing they are pushing to become one of the largest fracking shale gas producers in the world. With Promises they will reduce gas prices to the consumers who will blatantly believe them, when they did not need to be increased. You may see the sharks in our water but the sharks on our land are camouflaged and closer than you think.

There are alternative options to the conventional fracking using mega millions of water. There is alternative Solar and Wind Energy options available- So, Why are we not keeping our people safe, secure and healthy. Why is the Western Australian Government prioritising gas

sales ahead of fresh clean drinking water and our food security, a basic right we grow and eat in our homes, supermarkets, as takeaway and in restaurants and cafes, farmers markets for our communities?

With Russia and the USA ramping up their gas production, this will cause a glut in the mining industry and yet again, cause another BOOM & BUST industry.

<http://www.hydrocarbons-technology.com/features/feature-the-worlds-biggest-natural-gas-reserves/>

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/column-russell-lng/column-lng-is-the-new-shale-oil-with-the-u-s-as-disruptor-in-chief-russell-idUKL3N1QV2A4>

Land use patterns, the depth of the Yarragadee and unique tourism and agriculture industries mean fracking should be ruled out in these regions

The South West community has overwhelmingly rejected fracking WA Labor will focus efforts on industries that create long-term job opportunities

**A McGowan Labor Government will ban fracking in WA's South West, the Peel region and the Perth metropolitan area.**

WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan announced the ban in Capel today, following a strong campaign by local MP Mick Murray to make the South West a 'frack free' zone. Mr Murray's petition to ban fracking in the South West received more than 2,000 signatures.

Because of the unique natural environment, high population density, land use patterns and deep aquifers in these regions, fracking presents an unacceptable risk to farming, tourism and the South West's unique biodiversity.

Under a McGowan Labor Government, the unique tourism and agriculture industries in the South West will be at the forefront of WA Labor's plans to diversify our economy and create new jobs. Deliberately looking after your own area and turning the rest of Western Australia into a fracking region is a disgrace.

Comments from WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan:

“These measures will put to bed the fracking issue in the South West. Under a McGowan Labor Government, fracking will be banned in the South West, the Peel region and the Perth metropolitan area.

“The ban will finally offer the community the protections they’ve been demanding.

“The community has been vocal on this issue and WA Labor has listened. They’ve overwhelmingly backed Mick Murray’s campaign for a frack free South West and I’m delighted we’ve been able to give them an assurance that fracking will not occur in these regions under a government I lead.”

Data Research: <https://www.markmcgowan.com.au/news/wa-labor-moves-to-ban-fracking-in-the-south-west-1231>

Rainfall on the Gnangara Mound has been declining since the 1970s, and global climate models predict that this drying trend will continue across south-western Western Australia (IPCC 2007). This decline in rainfall, combined with a growing population, has caused the Perth metropolitan area to become increasingly dependent on groundwater, which has contributed to a steady, long-term decline in water table levels on the Gnangara Mound

Data Research:

[https://www.water.wa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/4713/103063.pdf](https://www.water.wa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/4713/103063.pdf)

Moora Water Protection Plan 1999

[https://www.water.wa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/4521/10107.pdf](https://www.water.wa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/4521/10107.pdf)

Acidic Groundwater Wheatbelt 2011

<https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com.au/&httpsredir=1&article=1366&context=rmtr>

Groundwater Agriculture 1998

<https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com.au/&httpsredir=1&article=1157&context=rmtr>

Fracking Chemicals polluted our ground water went on to contaminate found in Drinking water Pennsylvania

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/05/scientists-find-fracking-chemicals-drinking-water>

I want an analysis of all above ground and below ground in the areas of shale gas fracking, tested by 5 samples of each of the same water. 3 independent water specialists and I want 2 of those samples tested by students and or volunteers unpaid personnel. In one year from initial first drilling . Like the false reports that came from the product Ribena and the VW Volkswagen, why did we not have any volunteers or students on the panel for the fracking inquiry?

Short Term Increase in Jobs until well is fully established, then fully operational machinery would equal minimal jobs.

Short term increase in tourism with accommodation and meals then again, this will drop back once the wells are automated.

I want to see Contaminate Testing on people and the following list of areas of concern, prior to the introduction of Fracking in WA.

Food

Water

Land

Every Person Full Medical and Full Blood Test Prior

Air

Health

Safety

Farms

Lung/Respiratory Test

Livestock

Vegetation

Pets

## **Aquatic Life**

If fracking continues to expand, it could devastate Western Australia's way of life, Farming, Tourism, and Wine & Beer Industry. Agriculture, tourism, fishing and other outdoor pursuits could also be affected as a result of in the industrialisation of the countryside

In times of drought, the fracking industry regularly outbids farmers for water rights, increasing the price of water and directly jeopardizing their livelihoods. And the toxic chemicals and heavy metals associated with fracking operations can contaminate the soil, air and water, leach into crops, and kill our pets and livestock.

## **BAN FRACKING AT A LOCAL LEVEL**

I urge local government-Shires in Regional Western Australia and City of-to take matters in our own hands and ban fracking at a local level. Protect us and our community. We need to pressure our elected officials to step in where the state government has so far failed to act in protecting us with our basic rights to fresh water, food and lower energy prices.

Together, we can pressure our local elected officials to act.

Rona Chiera

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