

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage. Beyond individual plants, animals and places, this extends to our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

## Additional comments to the Conservation Council WA Proforma Submission

These comments have been displayed exactly as they were provided. Five comments have been removed as they were crude, vulgar or used abusive language.

I am writing to ask you to consider the great impact that fracking will have on Western Australia. Please know that this industry is not safe for humans or the environment...water is a precious commodity and ruining the water table is not safe for crops, animals or for people who rely on this water for drinking.

I urge you to ban fracking in Western Australia,

Fracking is the most stupid mining i have ever seen. I watched a video recently and am appaled at the potential risks. Please preserve the unique nature. Dont spoil our beloved country. You cannot let this happen in our state.

I also am ashamed that the Australian people would even think of doing this that causes terrible problems. Then to sell it on to the rest of the world for money off the back of the distruction it causes.

I believe that, world-wide, not enough is understood of the long-term effect.

We need to think about sustainability to preserve our State and think beyond the next political term.

I cannot believe that gas fracking is seriously being considered whereas there are so much renewable energy sources available here in Western Australia.

Most of the profits or financial “benefits” are enjoyed by large corporate organisations with no interest in the local people or environmental impact to our scarce water reserves.

When the gas runs out, we are left with a polluted water table which is of no benefit- only a health risk- to anyone near it.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes will lead to inevitable and irreversible consequences.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources.

This may not affect you now. But it WILL affect our children, our grandchildren and all our children into the future. We have a responsibility, start taking that responsibility seriously. YOU have NO right to jeapordise our children’s future. The damage that will be done CAN NOT be reversed. Unfortunately all of our lives and the planets health is in YOUR hands. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources — of small wind, and only on the sides of waterways possibly moveable micro-hydro, and solar thermal, solar electric(photovoltaic) to meet the state’s energy needs.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources in particular offshore wind and wave energy to meet the state's energy needs.

Please listen !!!!

Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation, not matter how much the companies blindsight you/us.

I can't believe fracking is still considered when it is so widely known how unsafe the practise is. The smart states have banned or put a moretorium on fracking. Come on wa, do we want to be left behind and seen as the state that's so backwards in our thinking towards energy ?

I live in Broome. It is simply stunning and doesn't deserve any fracking here or anywhere else in Western Australia.

I am displeased to see that the state continues to allow such negative activities as fracking in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

I am concerned this planned activity is a stepping stone to more and more landclearing, destructive activities. Destroying habitats of threatened species, including numerous native birds, interferes with the ecological balance.

I am concerned about proximity of activities to fresh water reservoirs such as lakes and acquifers. I do not beleive that restrictions are enforced to ensure the safety of these water sources. The government needs to push back on mining corporations. Doing this will encourage them to develop new technology that is non-invasive. It can be done, but right now they have no reason to change.

I would like to see more value placed on environmental wealth and the benefits of indiginous connection to country. By what means is this worth measured? It probably isnt. And it probably means a whole lot more than satisfying the ever increasing asian energy demand. How about we look after our own first before selling off all our natural resources and destroying our beautiful country.

I emplore whoevers in charge here to think twice, well thats my only advice.

To the people who think that they can take it all

Indeed, if fracking posed such a negligible threat to the environment and to the values cited previously, one could be excused for wondering why fracking is banned in water catchment areas (in NSW) and near residential areas.

Very disappointed to see fracking the the nod in WA. Keep destroying the southern half, but the northern half of this beautiful country, is pristine wilderness, untouched by man. Leave it alone!

Fracking is a blight on our environment and once done, can't be undone. We have seen the problems that fracking has created for farming and farming families and for the water table in other parts of Australia.

The Kimberley is an amazing place with many sacred areas for Aboriginal people. Why would anyone want to undertake a procedure that has the potential to endanger this? Any fracking close to this area will be the thin edge of the wedge.

We need to protect the natural environment to save it from irretrievable damage and for the future of our children and grandchildren – short term gain for money hungry corporations is not acceptable when it destroys our country. Europe has shown that it is possible to use sustainable energy resources to support industry and society without damage to the environment. Just because we have lots of open spaces is not a reason to inflict irreparable damage on this land. Please recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA or Australia without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Living in this moment I believe we are charged with leaving our environment in a better state than when we entered it. I would like to think that future generations will have the same or better natural biodiversity, landscapes, air and water quality. I would like to believe that as a society we are leaving our descendants something they can be proud of us for. And fracking does not fit the bill for any of the above.

In fact, fracking seems to me to have many serious consequences for the future, for the quality of our drinking water, for the delicate biodiversity and beauty of the landscape. It also appears to me that once it has occurred then the damage is irreversible. There are too many health concerns, unknown risks for consequential shifting of fractured rock, and pollution issues to really pass fracking as ok. So....

As an archaeologist I have heard from many Aboriginal groups about their concern for future generations if fracking goes ahead. Contaminated water is a major concern as river systems and underground aquifers are the life blood of this state. WA deserves much more of a focus on affordable tourism than wanton destruction of our unique biodiversity hotspots for fracking.

Other groups will have given detailed research on the negative impacts of fracking, seen in other states of Australia and overseas. I will not include these in my submission as a community member and concerned citizen but support their concerns.

I raise my concerns about fracking base on the evidence of negative consequences already shown and my concerns about future impacts.

The term 'fracking', whether for shale, tight, or coal seam gas (CSG), has become synonymous with land degradation, air pollution, climate change, chronic health problems, social agitation and contaminated and depleted water resources.

Public opposition has been fuelled by a growing awareness of both the scientific case against the industry and of the impacts on communities when the gas companies move in. Though little more than a dozen sites have been fracked so far in WA we've already seen serious leaks and other mishaps in the Kimberley, Mid West and South West.

News continues to spread of the appalling impact the industry has had in the eastern states on overseas. As a result a growing number of governments have banned unconventional gas extraction and fracking because of the risks and impacts on public health, the economy and the environment. Western Australian's now have a huge decision to make. Will we allow this industry to tear apart our beautiful country or will we say, "Frack Off!" to this industry and demand a frack free future for Western Australia.

I am very concerned that if the fracking industry gains access to Western Australia, the carbon pollution released in WA alone would be three times more than the figure for Australia's entire energy sector to emit, in order to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement. This would make it impossible for Australia to fulfill its international obligations on climate change.

Existing industry research seems to focus on the economic benefits or on the technicalities of gas extraction for the most efficient and cost-effective results. There is however a great deal of independent peer reviewed research published in reputable scientific journals that contraindicate the horizontal hydraulic slick-water fracturing practice. Given that unconventional shale and tight gas production is relatively new to Western Australia, the experience in the eastern states and overseas is used largely in this submission. Unconventional gas fracking licences have been granted extensively in WA even during the period in which there is a moratorium and a ban. These have been progressing under the radar before there has been a meaningful assessment of this industry. The exploration licences allow the companies to drill and check for potential gas flows. The damage to land and property during these processes is considerable. Questions must be raised about these processes occurring whilst an inquiry is proceeding. I urge you to impose a permanent ban on fracking in WA and preserve our environment for future generations. We already have all we need to be a leader in renewable energy. This is the time to move towards renewable energy and a safe future for WA.

Beyond individual plants, animals, ecosystems and places, this extends to our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without there being unacceptable impacts on these values.

Pollution of air and water, increased levels of Methane emission which is critical to increasing the progression of climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation. This has been shown to be the case in Queensland & NSW, where the gas companies are failing to contain contamination & emissions and are not being held to their licence conditions through inadequate auditing procedures or corrupt public officials. The resultant substantial methane emissions mock our commitment to the Paris Climate Accord, ensuring that the devastating impacts of Global Warming will have to be addressed by future generations.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and the risks posed by exploration & development of unconventional gas are not justifiable in the current economic or environmental climate.

Further to recommend measures that will encourage the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's future energy needs.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without negative substantial consequences. As can be seen by the unconventional gas industry's track record. I, like so many, recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA.

I whole heartedly support the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I am a marine scientist with a distinct lack of expertise in geology and fossil fuel extraction. I am, however, a citizen of Western Australia and this planet, and part of my research involves documenting the impact of climate change on marine megafauna. As such, I hold grave concerns over any activity which has the potential to damage water quality or contribute markedly to carbon/greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, I place VERY high value on the protection of Western Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage. I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions working alongside rangers, other biologists and Traditional Owners and I share their concerns about the potential impacts of fracking on natural and Aboriginal heritage.

Gas fracking should not be carried out in Western Australia unless it can be unequivocally demonstrated that such a form of resource extraction is less costly to the environment than the use of renewable energy sources.

I kindly request that the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry recommends a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities. Similarly, I humbly request the Panel strongly urges the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

We have an international obligation, as well as one to future generations of Western Australians, and we should behave accordingly.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on the environment.

Pollution of air and water concerns me greatly, as does the increased climate change which is inevitable causing irreversible consequences by the gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

We should be developing renewable energy resources not pollution causing, environment damaging gas.

As a resident of Halls Head for nearly 8 years, I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I thank you in advance for your close, prompt attention to this vital issue.

Please do not allow fracking to happen in Western Australia. The carbon emissions will be devastating to the environment. And it may cause permanent damage to our waterways. Please look after our state. The future is in renewables.

I am an Australian but not from your state, but it is no local matter.

I have just read that climate scientists have calculated that a fracking industry in WA would produce climate pollution that would be three times as much as Australia as a whole has agreed to limit itself to under the Paris agreement.

I have also, over the years, read that a country like Germany, which is not renowned for year long sun, is nonetheless developing its use of solar power far more swiftly and efficiently than WA. It seems to me obvious that, with our year round sun, for the sake of the planet WA governments should be doing far more to develop solar power and other renewable sources of power and that a decision to allow any fracking in the state would be a horrible betrayal of our children and children's children.

I hope the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry will recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in Australia, without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on our state's natural environment. It is also unacceptable from a global perspective as we have a responsibility to reduce the impacts of climate change. (Sadly we can no longer prevent it)

I have been studying climate change for over 40 years as a scientist and educator. Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

we have an absolutely exquisite natural environment in this state and that is worth billions more protected in the future, than it is if destroyed by fracking. The water table is the source of all life, it would just be stupid to mess with that for commercial interests. We have other choices. I place a high value on our state's rich natural environment and cultural heritage.

Once the fracking has been done it cannot be reversed do not take the gamble that it wont matter. It could turn out to be a real disaster world wide.

Globally, the earth is in a precarious place due to man and our activities to 'move forward'. Our oceans are filled with plastic, our insects are dying, animals are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. Do we want to continue being a part of that problem or can we use our knowledge and understanding of cause and effect to make better decisions and start focusing on a new ways to exist better with our planet. It is time to move away from fossil fuel and invest in renewable options. There are so many reasons we should ban fracking.

Also, studies show that fracking causes devastating health problems in humans and animals.

Enough is enough with the indecent money grabs and long term selling out of the people, our health, our environment, for the sake of corporate greed. Fracking has PROVEN to be a disaster and health/environmental hazard in the US and other countries.

The Yarragadee aquifer cannot and should not be put in jeopardy for any reason. Please do not allow fracking to go ahead.

Modelling done by Beyond Zero Emissions and Sustainable Energy Now shows that renewable energy is sufficient to provide virtually all of our electrical energy needs at costs which are competitive with rebuilding our aging coal generation, and that the need for the amount of gas energy will reduce dramatically in WA and globally, as renewables dominate. Additionally, fuel-switching from gas to electric will further reduce otherwise growing gas demand.

Pollution of land, air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry.

Enough is enough of this insatiable appetite for economic and energy development. The mineral boom in western australia, and indeed australia, has seen very little filter through to the benefit of our society, and in fact the community of australia in general is paying for political ineffectiveness in having the country's wealth go to the general population, as distinct from huge, often foreign owned companies and there already rich (and likely unhappy ) shareholders. Our land is too precious to risk with fracking. The precautionary principle must apply, and the risk is too great, especially when the benefit to the ordinary person is almost non-existent, judging by history. We also have a responsibility to the other creatures that inhabit this planet, and there is scarce natural habitat left, after the rabidness on industry and urbanisation. Humans now need to start cutting back, fracking should not go ahead anywhere in australia, and certainly W.A.

I firmly believe that fracking does not serve anybody's interests, except those of the people that want to profit by it. Our quality of life, and that of our children, is under ever increasing attack from those who think they can keep plundering the earths resources regardless of damage done to the water table, the arable land, farmers rights, and aboriginal heritage.....the list goes on. We do not need more gas, especially from unconventional methods. What we need is a smarter use of the energy we are already producing, especially from the renewable sector. It's time to listen to the people, not the fracking companies. Please legislate now for a statewide ban on fracking,

I do not live in WA but it is one of my favourite tourist destinations, and there are so many areas I have yet to see, including the Kimberley region. I hope they will remain unspoiled for future generations to enjoy

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage and for the following reasons think that Fracking in Australia should be banned in a way that future govts cannot retract the ban without the people deciding in a vote which must be at least 60% in favour.

There are many hazards directly associated with Fracking but the one that is most important to WA is water. Without it Australia will be compromised.

The next important element is that most of the Fracking is being done or proposed by foreign corporations who: pay little in taxes; take their profits overseas; employ mostly cheap foreign labour who also sent their earnings overseas; pay very little in Royalties: and do NOT and will not contribute towards major environmental damage or the destruction of Australias water source. Australian resources do not belong to the elite of foreign or Australian corporations, it belongs to Australians and the concept that we practically GIVE our resources away to an elite few, is bad enough but to allow these mega corporations to benefit from our country resources, giving nothing back to Australia and destroying our environment and the future of our water supply (with impunity), is beyond belief.

No, the real (long term) benefits of Fracking in Australia need to be accurately accounted for, along with the real costs to Australia of the destruction of our environment and our much needed water supply.

Our water supply is our future, without it we limit Australia's ability to survive as a viable economy.

Australia doesn't need Fracking for our energy needs, foreign corporations (many from the USA) do.

You may ask, WHY, given Australia's massive gas fields, do we need to even consider Fracking. Because Australia's Gas fields were "given" away with little or NO BENEFIT to Australia. The mega FOREIGN Mining corporations: take our resources and make huge profits; pay little to nothing in taxes; take those profits overseas; pay nothing or little in Royalties; employ cheap foreign labour, etc. Australia is in trouble because John Howard GAVE our Gas fields away for nothing for twenty years!!!

Fracking will be NO difference, except it will NOT help our energy needs NOR will it give any economic advantage to Australia, whilst ensuring the possibility of compromising Australia's economic and environmental future.

I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to guarantee Australia's economic and environmental future by recommending a permanent, legislative ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA. In that recommendation ensure that future fools cannot change the legislation without a vote by the people and that in order to change the legislation 60% approval must be obtained.

Stop future destruction of Australia (both economical & environmental) and the GIVING AWAY of our resources by those that are willing to sell out their own country due to their political dogma.

Our environment is beyond price and, like so many West Australians, I place a high value on its protection. Our environment includes not only precious and irreplaceable flora and fauna habitat, but our water resources, and the rural and natural landscapes that rely on it, along with our indigenous culture and connection to country.

I have children whom I owe it to to leave WA as pristine an environment as possible.

El I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I am writing as a person born in WA who still has a strong connection to the place, although I live in New South Wales at present. I have included some standard text below about concerns with fracking, but I believe wholeheartedly that these concerns are vital and overwhelm any potential benefit from opening up new gas Fields in WA.

It does not take a genius to perceive the other attempts at fracking in USA and round Queensland and the devastating effects it has had on the environment, the inhabitants, the air the water..... The fact that every remaining extinct gas well in USA leaks toxic polluting chemicals..... The fact that Australia is the windiest sunniest continent on the earth, and we should be moving towards green solutions, not highly polluting insane methods of extracting gas from kilometres under the earth.

WA is a dry state getting drier. There is barely enough water as it is. Witnessing the aquifers in Queensland becoming polluted through fracking beneath the aquifers, it is a no brainer that even the possibility of polluting our aquifers is a BAD IDEA.

And so you're in a position where you are being co-erced against your better judgement and your common sense to act in the best interest of big businesses.... I suggest you think twice about what legacy you wish to leave to your children.

It is morally wrong!

HURRY UP AND BAN IT ALREADY!! This is outrageous that it has continued to be considered when the FACT is the mines will leak toxins into our environment that is NOT REVERSIBLE. It puts too much of a risk to our water supply, endangering animals, agriculture and us! I DON'T WANT IT IN MY COUNTRY!!!! The greedy organisations can make their money some other way!

HURRY UP AND BAN FRACKING!!!! The mines are guaranteed to leak toxins into the environment and destroy our land, animals, agriculture and us! There is too much of a risk. I know we have more intelligent sustainable environmentally friendly energy sources now. No more need to support these barbaric old fashioned unnecessary mining. I don't want it in my country! The greedy corporations can find another way to make money! Leave our country alone!!

I do not believe that gas fracking can be carried out anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on the environment, and I do not see that WA requires fracking to mine our plentiful gas resources.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources, as well as more easily accessible fossil fuel resources, which means that fracking is unnecessary.

I want to be part of the people's voice and say I love my state and value our precious water and want to be part of keeping it safe.

The issues pollution problems in the United States from fracking practices are study enough to know the dangers clearly.

We must protect WA for future generations. Fracking is not the way to go.

I just think it is mental to frack when renewables are now cost effective and risks of contaminating our underground water supplies is too much to contemplate

My husband and I spent over 12 months working and travelling in Western Australia. The state is so dependent on its underground water source. Please don't risk the future of this life giving resource by fracking.

We love our state and travel within it and within the whole of Australia regularly. Travelling and camping and enjoying this beautiful country is important to our family and believe it is important to protect it.

Why does WA have so much national park ? It's because we have so many fragile areas to protect. Fracking will destroy the land only to profit big business.

Below is a prewritten email explaining great points against tracking. But I wanted to add in before this to ask poinient questions like is fracking guaranteed safe? No! Is our country able to use or create technologies that will completely replace fossil fuels in the very near future? Yes! Do Australians want our country covered in fracking wells? No! Is fracking hindering our progresses? Yes! It is keeping us in the dark ages in terms of energy sources when we should be using our very precious time and resources trying to clean up our planet not destroy it more. We humans have done enough partying and now it's time to clean up the devastation so our children and hgrand children have a healthy planet to call home. The money made by fracking is NOT worth it!

Horrific impacts can already be seen in the US and in QLD, why would we keep risking such a precious resource?

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed except for a potential backup  
Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs. Including investigations into solar farms and battery storage as per SA. With potential use of offshore gas in gas powered generators for backup power

Unconventional gas activities have already been scientifically proven to have caused contamination of water resources and ill health outcomes in the USA.  
Furthermore, gas fracking has been banned in large parts of Europe due to the long term effects of the damage it causes. It's beyond belief that we would even consider allowing this anywhere in WA.  
Please consider the future when you make your recommendations.

I would like to add that Fracking needs to be banned by the state government like Victoria did, otherwise farmers will sell out for greed or necessity. Please help our farmers to continue to produce healthy food not contaminated products.  
Please save our water.

I am a Professional Researcher and have looked into Fracking. If you did the same you would NEVER EVER allow it! There is enough evidence from farmers etc. who have experienced the devastating effects of water being contaminated with gas and becoming undrinkable or unable to be used to irrigate their lands.

I have spoken to some indigenous people who have seen the same results in Northern N.S.W. Please watch the movie: Gaslands. There are other scientific journals with the same message. What good is it to be turning the light on or stove on only to have nothing to cook and no water to drink. If we are not careful, we will have to import water from China.  
If the Government hadn't allowed natural gas resources to be sold off for nothing overseas, there would be plenty for Australia. No need for fracking.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without irreversible impacts to the water table. The risk of permanent contamination to underground water reserves is too high and as the planet warms these reserves will become more critical in Australia for the next generation and beyond.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and conventional oil & gas reserves without venturing into fracking. With large networks of onshore wellheads and multitudes of small bore pipework, these gas plants severely impact the landscape and accessibility. Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources and conventional oil & gas reserves to meet the state's energy needs.

Dear panel members, Looking to the future of our precious environment and fragile balance between it and humanity, I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values and detrimental consequences that my children and grandchildren will be faced with.

Renewable energy development will give the earth time to rejuvenate and repair and humanity the chance to nurture our most precious resource.

I place an extremely high value on my families health and access to clean drinking water is critical to all of us in this respect.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed. Just look at what renewables countries in the northern hemisphere are generating putting this country to shame.

I strongly believe fracking is not worth the risk to water for everyone for short term gain for a few.

of all the potential sources of energy that play a part – fracking should not be one of them. the environmental cost is too high, and the repercussions too long. Please – no fracking.

I personally did my own research many years ago after hearing about what happened in America. Nothing has changed my mind as the safety of fracking has never been proven. Now hearing about the impact on other states farming communities I am even more fearful of the damage that would be done to our beautiful state.

There is no real case for fracking in WA. We have enough offshore and drilled wells for oil & gas to last for centuries. Gas fracking would be detrimental to WA, any benefits from fracking would only be for big overseas companies to export billions of dollars of our resources for their own profit. WA would gain very little if anything. When it runs dry, they will leave us with the mess and damage fracking will create.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be undertaken anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values or without detrimental effects on the future of our countries most valuable prospects. It's healthy environment and our future generations.

To who it may concern. Which is everyone. State-wide & beyond, as flowing chemically contaminated water has no boundaries.... I may have written before...It will do no harm to say it again, to make sure those who want to frack HEAR.....

Too risky: Chemicals have leached into aquifers & water tables before, & there is NO GUARENTEE it won't happen again.

It risks our drinking water. It risks our food supply that has to be irrigated with water It is un-natural to force chemicals into the ground- We are forever taking the good out & replacing only with bad... THIS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE

Our water supply is our most valuable & precious commodity, & yet humongous amounts would be used in the fracking process. Hello?..... `AUSTRALIA IS THE DRIEST CONTINENT ON EARTH! ....And yet we are blessed in Australia with so much sun, wind, and 'our land is girth by sea' – All natural resources. THAT is the sensible way forward!..... I DON'T SUPPORT FRACKING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Bottom line is, we can live without gas, but we cannot live without safe drinking water.

I care deeply about the issues outlined below, both for my family, and for future generations. I believe we are at a turning point. We need to protect what we have.

We have an obligation to our future generations to place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Western Australia is going through a period of decreasing rainfall which may be attributed to a changing climate. The vast majority of W.A.'s water supply comes from ground water and it is through these acquafiers that drilling for unconventional gas occurs. It is a recognized fact that every gas well WILL FAIL at some time be it 5 years or 30 years, but it WILL FAIL . Apart from the millions who rely on clean drinking water from the ground, our business also relies on clean ground water. Contaminated ground water could ruin our business and we employ 30 people. Multiply this by other small businesses. Is the cost to our society worth the 50 people who will benefit from unconventional fracking. Think carefully we don't want another problem similar to The Children's Hospital or the contaminated ground water at the Air force grounds around Australia.

We ALL need Clean Water! Fracking pollutes water so that it can NEVER be cleaned up and used safely.

I know you have a big job with a great deal of reading, so my summery is at the begging I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, You don't need to read any more it will cover the same as other Frack Fee advocates. I am a 60 year old grandfather concerned about the mistakes my generation and those generations before us have made, as the population increases these type of mistakes compound and I honestly believe we are racing to the point of no return.

There are thousands of people trying to rehabilitate the flora and fauna of Australia and Fracking will just another thing that will take thousands of years to fix. Even allowing limited Fracking will only give companies license to increases Fracking.

The Tesla batteries in South Australia prove that we don't need fracking anywhere in Australia, let alone in a state renowned for its fauna and flora.

Why do we need this? WA has enough gas & whoa so many better options... solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, etc

I know that gas fracking cannot be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts by pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change. These are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry.

Please just stop fracking, fossil fuels is the deadest industry I could possibly think to invest in.

Consider for one minute the fact that we only have one earth, it is our responsibility to use it wisely so that everyone now and for the future have safe food, clean water & unpolluted air to breathe. As a newish Australian I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without completely unacceptable impacts on these values.

Our grandchildren and great grandchildren have the right to inherit the earth, particularly the beautiful part we call home West Australia; we do not have the right to destroy their future for short term profit.

Fracking is a major impact on the economy of Western Australia and any part of Australia where it is allowed. There is many more jobs and income from renewable energies and innovative industries. The future is here grab it and run with it before it leaves you behind in a wasteland that used to be the economically healthy and beautiful Western Australia.

Water in this state is a precious resource that needs to be protected for centuries and not destroyed for a temporary resource.

I have children that I would like to see grow up in a non polluted non toxic environment.

I place a high value on the protection of the Australian natural environment and cultural heritage.

This may lead to similar permanent bans throughout the rest of Australia. There are, already, plenty of examples of the destructive impact of fracking in NSW and this should act as a dire warning to all Australians that fracking destroys the structure of the deep layers underground. Fracking wells destroy the structure of underground rock layers and results in transference of gases and water through the holes that are drilled through formerly impervious rock layers. Tracts of land that once had plentiful surface water are becoming drylands and waterways drying up. Sections of waterways clearly show gases bubbling up. These gases can be ignited. This must surely be ample proof that there is no safe means of fracking.

I am not a western Australian, I am an Australian citizen who is concerned about what we do to our country and its citizens .. I am hoping to help western Australians that are concerned about what can affect their health and immediate environment, I would like to help them be heard.

The Background Paper released by the Inquiry has already identified serious environmental, social, economic, and health risks caused by the fracking industry, namely: • toxic/hazardous Contamination and other impacts to groundwater and to surface water • Contamination Impacts to soil quality • Impacts on biodiversity • Detrimental Impacts on farming and other beneficial uses of the environment • Toxic/hazardous Air pollution • Greenhouse Gas emissions • Toxic/hazardous Impacts to public safety • Impacts on amenity and aesthetic enjoyment of a local area • Long-term Hazardous and harmful contamination Impacts to the environment (water, air quality and environment) subjecting high risk to the health of wildlife, native animals and to all animals health caused by the detrimental impacts caused by unsafe/high risk fracking practices. • Toxic/hazardous and detrimental impacts to human health, animal health, food safety and quality, and long-term unsafe contamination to the environment.

Fracking in any part of Western Australia is NOT compatible with the protection of our environment, climate, health, and water.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across Western Australia, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources be implemented to meet the state's energy needs of today and into the future.

I can't think of anything more immediate, more critical than complete protection of our planet and our future. I am frightened that we are tipping beyond the point of repair and that drastic action and sacrifice is required before it is too late, and we force our next generation to lose it all. Although the action of individuals is important, the government, business and mining sectors hold the balance, and must be willing to make changes in order to have a chance in fighting climate change.

The process known as fracking has attracted controversy worldwide and has been shown to have unforeseen problems and serious issues for the environment and for people living in around that environment. It seems to be a desperate method of extracting the final drops of a fuel source which is becoming increasingly outdated as new technologies are developed to explore alternative energy sources. Surely it is counterproductive to endanger a relatively pristine natural environment to pursue a process which will ultimately have limited usefulness; in the meantime we will live for a long time with the kind of damage that this process has been seen to do where it is practiced worldwide.

Please don't do it!

This is my children's home and our planet future and there is no ethical or moral reasons to risk the continuing destruction of our planet when focus should be on renewable energy vision via solar and wind.

Aside from the lack of foresight in wanting to develop new sources for fossil fuel when we should be de-carbonising the economy,

I do not believe that gas extraction can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Could you insure that these submissions are counted and I would appreciate a reply from the Minister. Cause just ignoring my submission is wrong.  
No reply will let me know that it has been ignored.

We are standing on very amazing pristine caves that depend and rely on the pure and natural aquasphere movements .

Please don't turn our state into a scene out of a mad max film!!!

There is no place for Fracking on this planet let alone our beautiful state of WA. The many countries and even our own state of Queensland that have reported increases in cancer and infant mortality and a whole list of ailments that cannot be explained other than they occur in places that have been heavily Fracked should be enough of a sign to cease all onshore Fracking. Has the Erin Brokovich story not reached some people i wonder, because there should be no industry that allows such blatant disregard for the lives of so many people not to mention the animals that are also impacted.

We live in a world where this information is readily available so there is no room for ignorance, or bad choices when the options are clearly there for clean energy, especially in a state like WA which has plenty of sun, wind and the ocean... this is the future, not the outdated, toxic and dangerous method of Fracturing our already vulnerable earths crust.

The evidence speaks for itself. Land where fracking has occurred is poisoned and unfit to live on. Once beautiful eco systems now uninhabitable 😞 why would you even think about destroying any of our earth just for a dollar? Definitely not worth it!

As a farmer, person of Aboriginal decent, and concerned parent I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Overseas examples in the USA showing the very detrimental affect fracking has on the environment and waterways.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values and impacting of native fauna and flora, farm animals and human life.. No one wants to consume or use contaminated products as they are a public safety issue Australia-wide. Who wants to visit areas and use amenities that are polluted? This affects tourism and aesthetic enjoyment of local areas and WA as a tourist destination..

Renewable energy resource is an opportunity for investment and employment in sustainable industries. These have a future that does not harm the planet and employs local people. So please keep up the excellent work on a healthy and sustainable future for WA. Thank you.

With the increasingly drying climate of Western Australia and our associated increase in reliance on high quality groundwater resources for both drinking water and the storage of water via managed aquifer recharge, the risk to the future viability and reliability of these water resources posed by the fracking process is too great.

There is enough technology, expertise and infrastructure in Western Australia to support sufficient alternative fuel and energy technologies without resorting to fracking. It is unnecessary, irresponsible and unethical to allow fracking to adversely impact the quality of ground water resources for future generations.

We are wiser, more sensible and care more for our children's future than to engage in this practice.

I support a statewide ban on fracking on moral, ethical, scientific and technological principal. You should too.

It has been documented in the US that there are so many health problems for humans and animals that are associated with fracking, and that the damage to the environment is irreversible.

Given the amount of chemicals in the fracking solution that gets pumped underground, which only a small amount is retrieved, those chemicals are a known carcinogen which causes cancer. Containing fumes and leakages is never 100% guaranteed, poisoning the air and earth. Once the water table has been breached, or a body of water polluted, there is no repair

Also, Private corporations who control offshore gas must be forced to provide a steady supply to our own domestic market, before profiteering from overseas sales.

Please ban fracking altogether like we have in Victoria under the Labour Government of Premier Daniel Andrews. Clean Energy is our future.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA or the rest of the planets without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Fracking is filthy dirty, and needs to frack off.

I strongly reject that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

If fracking wells don't fail in the short term , they WILL fail in the longer term , i.e. 20 to 40 years , and when they do they WILL contaminate our water aquifers . This high risk is unacceptable .

if we are committed to renewable energy and we have so much potential for it, why do we need to bend over back wards and go into Fracking??

Before the template text starts below, I would like to add that in mt childhood I was on the bad end of upstream disrespect of riparian rights and agricultural chemicals ending up in the drinking water.

I do not believe that gas fracking can or should ever be done anywhere in WA without it causing unacceptable impacts on these values.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and INCREASED CLIMATE CHANGE are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry, INCLUDING VIA METHANE LEAKAGE.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change, LET ALONE WHAT SCIENCE TELLS US IS NEEDED.

Further, with the way the Eastern States hold WA to ransom with GST payments, I do not see why we should allow the destruction of our state's environment, so they can profit from exporting "our" resources.

Perhaps you place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage? I certainly do. This even goes beyond individual plants, animals and places, this extends to our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

We know from experience that many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed. Western Australia sits in a perfect location to further renewable energy.

I also recognise the importance of longevity of the environment on people's life expectancy and general health and wellbeing – from mental health to respiratory and physical condition. Thank you for your consideration

It certainly shouldn't be found acceptable in some places and not others. We have enough environmental concerns. Why add to them for no reason except greed. Work smart, innovate, don't support old technology.

I've just copied this because it says it all. Very clearly and succinctly. What it doesn't say is that this is really about equity and social responsibility. We don't need to frack. It can be that simple surely?! Please consider.

There is enough documentation about the risks of fracking in Western Australia. From watching documentaries where fracking exists we can see a decline in air quality, water quality, soil quality. Public health is suffering where fracking is occurring and I am aware of the risk to Aboriginal heritage, a topic close to my heart with Aboriginal cousins and my own ancestry. Renewable energy sources are the only option for our climate and the future of our children. My children are taught about renewable energy, being waterwise, recycling, being energy smart...as a part of the school curriculum. How do we explain to them the hypocrisy of their own government, that proposes to act in their interests, when you allow negative practices, such as fracking to endanger their health, their natural environment and their future. That's right, it is inexplicable. How can the powers that be justify such a decision to their own children. They can't. Fracking, and any exploration for this purpose, equates to disempowering and undermining our lives and our children's futures. It is about a government prioritising financial gain over public health. It is about failing to invest in positive environmental decisions. The Western Australian Government must not sell out its people. It must appropriately represent their interests by saying no to fracking, forever.

As a lecturer in communications, the amount of 'spin' and outright untruths the fracking industry spreads is of great concern. Their information is anything but transparent and they spend a great deal of money, time and effort in ensuring the truth of their industry is not revealed. Fortunately (and unfortunately for them) we have the eyewitness accounts of people around the world to tell us their experiences with fracking and none of it is good. I urge you to listen to the people who have experience dealing directly with these companies. The only people who support fracking are those making money from it.

Please protect our future generations, our water and our environment.

Fracking in various places around the world has been shown to impact negatively on our environment, health and economy.

Please help save our environment. Ban all fracking in Western Australia.

It's been proven time and time again... fracking is a horrible horrible way to destroy our planet .. please recommend this money is invested in renewables ! Make WA the leader in renewables

Thank you for accepting my humble submission on behalf of myself and my family, I hope with your scientific depth of knowledge a recommendation to permanently ban unconventional gas activities will be the outcome of the inquiry

Fracking may appear cheaper, but the actual cost is far greater than the outlay, if all the consequences are taken into consideration. The extent of the effect of fracking (especially unconventional) is not wholly known and the types of fracking vary greatly.

As a Traditional Owner I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR PRECIOUS GROUND WATER FRACKING IN LIMESTONE WILL RESULT IN IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE**

Given the low cost renewables are now a viable option there is no requirement for fracking. There is too little known about the practice and too much evidence supporting the pollution of ground water as a result of fracking.

Australia is beautiful and money should be made with tourism and positive impact energy generation.

I say no to fracking.

It should not be up to individuals to have to demand the right thing be done to protect our priceless environment.

Can't you see what's this type of non – reversal destruction has done to every part of the world !!! Let's learn from their mistakes ... please !

Please do not allow our beautiful land and precious waterways to be destroyed by fracking!

It's too big a risk. We need clean water...

'Lifestyle' in Australia is largely dependent on energy produced by fossil fuels. But 'Life' in Australia, as it is all around our planet is totally dependent on clean air, clean water and uncontaminated food sources.

In developing industries the first rule should be to 'do no harm'. I don't believe the practice of fracking meets this by any stretch of our fantastic imaginations. We must strive for better, for more sustainable with the long term, bigger picture in mind.

I ask the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to please recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I am concerned about the potential long term implications of fracking. The environment, including fauna are already under serious threat and fracking will not help. Our over reliance on fossil fuels has damaged our environment and placed our species in a tenuous position on this planet. The only one we have. We need to move away from gas and oil and put our money into environmentally friendly industry's such as solar. The long-term potential of such industry's offers Australia and the world a future. Many people believe we have time, perhaps a hundred years, to correct the problems that we have created. I believe we have much less time than we think perhaps decades, perhaps only one. These years will shape our children's future. Our basic need is for clean air and clean water. I can envision a time when we have to buy both or go without. The same industry that is getting rich off fossil fuels will probably be the same one doing the selling or at the very least it will not be their children going without. I believe that gas fracking anywhere in WA will contribute to this bleak future and an unacceptable impact on our society.

I am deeply saddened about any attempt to develop this technology anywhere in the world. And I feel very anxious about the detrimental and irreparable negative impacts gas fracking will have on our local environment and cultural heritage. In this case, the environmental, social, cultural and health costs will undoubtedly outweigh any short-term, purely economic benefit that may result from a fracking industry in WA.

Dear Tom, who is a colleague of my husband Prof Richard Hobbs and Fiona, who was a parent with me at St Hilda's, Please will you help the land we live on to remain able to support us and the other biodiverse animals and plants by stopping fracking for ever in this huge state of WA.

Infamous Fracking operations which have occurred in various parts of Australia and the world have proven that gas fracking cannot be done anywhere without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I cannot believe that in a country and state as water poor as ours, that anyone in their right mind would consider risking or harming in any way a resource as vital and life sustaining as water. The proven and the yet to be proven risks associated with fracking are too great; anecdotal evidence too compelling, to risk any action other than banningg fracking from this state and encouraging all parts of this country to do the same.

Without clean water, our earth dies! Forget the short term profit motives!

Renewable resources, such as wind and solar power, are always available, financially cheaper in the long term and better for the environment and ourselves.

The below (pre-prepared) statement accurately reflects my views on fracking, however I would like to add to it.

I am originally from the Canadian province of Alberta and have been an Australian citizen since the early nineties.

Alberta is Canada's "Texas" as far as oil production goes. As a result of fracking and other oil production technologies, ground water and rivers have been massively impacted, and the environment has been significantly damaged.

Naturally, all of this has been done to produce the cheapest petroleum in order to maximise the profits of the explorers and producers.

The Governments have been just as greedy, seeing the royalties as a way of staving off tax increases in order to reduce the risk of putting the average voter off side.

The reality is that we degrade and irreparably damage our national assets for very short term gains.

Common sense says that we will, through necessity or strategy, come to use mainly non-fossil sources of energy in the future, so why continue to cling to these antiquated forms of energy now? And certainly ask yourself, if we will move to something better and cleaner in the future, why would we choose to sacrifice the very resources (clean water and air) which we need for life itself, in order to move our SUV's a few kms?

An often used argument for why we should be exploring and exploiting our fossil fuel reserves now is that, if we don't, the exploration and petroleum companies will invest somewhere else and we will miss out on jobs and revenue.

The fact is that every day the oil and gas stays in the ground it becomes more valuable. Its like cash in the bank. And while others rip, tear and damage their environments to get theirs out, ours will be safe, secure and becoming ever more precious.

Who knows, in future better, less destructive means of extracting those resources, without the need for fracking may mean that we can have our cake and eat it too. Access the resources without destroying our environment.

After all, what's the point of ensuring we all have jobs if we then pass on to our children a cheapened and degraded world?

Please ban fracking anywhere in Western Australia take a leading position on this matter. Thank you.

Fracking has been associated with unacceptable environmental damage in other parts of Australia and the world.

Fracking poses unpredictable environmental risks which can't be mitigated against. Western Australia is fortunate to remain relatively less affected by pollution and environmental damage than many parts of the world. The WA ecosystems are fragile, and small impacts on water (contamination or change in amount of ground water) can have catastrophic effects.

Please don't allow fracking to go ahead in WA. Please protect us from this risk.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. People travel here to experience the natural and largely unspoilt landscape. There are so many reasons why fracking should not take place in WA, let alone anywhere in Australia. The number one reason is the potential to damage our water. We are one of the driest places on Earth. We rely heavily on the underground aquifers which take thousands of years to recharge our everyday water supply. Water is life. Fracking not only uses large amounts of water, but it also contaminates water sources. It produces large amounts of contaminated waste water, which in most places is poorly dealt with and often leads to contaminating surrounding rivers and the natural environment. The majority of wells have been found to leak methane, a very dangerous greenhouse gas in terms of its global warming capacity. Then there is the invasion of people's properties. You cannot stop the gas companies. You could have a property with a beautiful untouched landscape and they will turn it into an industrial waste land. They operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with very noisy processes and bright lights running all night. They destroy the lives of the families of the properties they take over. Not to mention all the toxic chemicals they use in their processes which has caused much sickness in people living nearby. We need to move away from fossil fuels. Global warming and pollution are a huge issue. Renewables are the future and WA has abundant renewable resources that can be harnessed that will have a lot less impact on the natural environment. Fracking and developing more fossil fuels is not the answer

I am one of the farmers of WA whose industry produces probably the most important requirement for survival .. food. Most farmers rely on a mix of ground water and stored water to provide for their stock. There is no doubt that the fracturing process which is integral to gas production changes underground structures – deleteriously affecting ground water systems which have been in existence for millions of years. What fools would allow such a potentially devastating activity for a bauble of extremely limited value? There is a myriad of significant negative and potentially catastrophic effects associated with onshore gas reservoir fracturing which far outweigh its benefit. On top of which, offshore, WA has some of the world's largest natural gas deposits.

The cost / benefit analysis of fracked gas production onshore comes down strongly on the “Do not do this” side.

Please heed the precedents in USA where fracking has been seen to be the cause of harm to land, animal and human populations. W.A does not need, nor do the majority of the population want to go down the same road of unnecessary suffering when there is so much we can do with sustainable energy now.

I concur with the following but would like to add that I am reliant on ground water from the Leederville aquifer and rain water. Our climate is drying and the impacts are getting worse as each year passes. We do not have the luxury of business as usual and any risk to our ground water supplies will have ramifications for generations to come. This alone should be reason enough for a state wide ban let alone the fact that we are heading for a 3-4 degree rise in temperature with the trajectory we are on with current carbon emissions. Perth city is on an unsustainable path with a rising population and rapidly diminishing water resources. It is inevitable that we will be needing to make radical changes to our water usage and as our community blithely stumbles into a future that is fraught with unseen consequences it is up to our leaders and people like yourselves to make informed decisions, backed by sound science to encourage renewables and leave the fossil fuels in the ground.

## WAKE UP

Please do not frac.

The idea of blowing up the soil/rock profile to extract fossilised sunlight is venal. Most of life on Earth depends on the maintenance of a thin layer of soil/water/air on the Earth's surface held together and stabilised by the interactions of many species of flora and fauna, of which humans are one, and only one. This layer has been disrupted by fracking at some places with disastrous results for life.

We do not need dirty old fossilised sunlight as we have plenty of clean, free, new sunlight coming to Earth daily.

It is known around the World that ALL gas wells eventually fail. They are made of concrete and steel. The environment under ground is very corrosive. Concrete breaks down and cracks, and within 50 years any well will start to leak gas and contaminants into the environment. Scientists agree Methane gas is 100 times more damaging to our atmosphere than Co2!

I find it sad that we humans harm our own and other specie's water, food, air and health, just to receive gas that ends up contributing to climate change and global warming when we already have enough natural and liquid gas available. The Fracking that the Onshore Gas Industry does affects Western Australians soil quality, our air, and most importantly our environmental health!! I feel ashamed that our nation is letting this disaster continue.

I hope you make up your mind thinking about Western Australians future. I say no to Fracking I hope you do to.

Even more than the risks that fracking poses to groundwater contamination and native species habitat through land clearing are the risks to quality of air. The methane leaks from open pits carrying waste water and from the ground itself after fracking are massive. Methane itself not only causes cataclysmic runaway climate change, but health problems that have been well dovumented from Tara and Roma in Queensland – headaches, lung disorders, and nose bleeds.

In fact I place a high value on our planet. With climate change in evidence. With plastic pollution of our waterways and with clearing of our forests the planet is under threat. Fracking is another example of greed gone mad. Short term gains at great cost later. Why do politicians keep allowing this? Please prevent this latest threat to our environment

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable social and environmental impacts.

There is evidence of what gas fracking has done to ground water resources in other areas like USA and it is socially, environmentally and ethically unacceptable.

It is a total crime to destroy valuable assets and I am completely against it. The focus and resources should be put onto developing the renewable energy sector.

I would like to know what the people of W.A. will miss if there is a complete ban on gas fracking in this State.

I do worry about the Aboriginal heritage sites; do they? Have the relevant groups been consulted & their opinions taken into account?

I do worry about the below ground water supplies being adversely affected.

I do wonder whether the gas fracking in Papua New Guinea has caused the recent earthquake disaster in the mountains there & how applicable that could be to the Kimberley and Pilbara areas.

A high value needs to be placed on all of Australias natural environment and cultural heritage. I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without destructive and polluting impacts on the natural environment and cultural landscapes.

Pollution of air and water, degrading impacts on biodiversity, and degradation of soil, agricultural land and already distressed water systems will occur as a result of gas fracking in WA. Regulation will not control or stop negative impacts.

WA has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

I place a high value on the protection of our nations natural environment and cultural heritage. I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA ( or anywhere within Australia, in fact) without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Our country has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

Please accept this as my submission to the Independent Scientific Panel considering the risks of fracking in WA

In Australia we have abundant resources for sustainable energy. We have the knowhow and skills to develop sufficient energy generation and storage from wind, solar, tide and geothermal sources for our needs. There will be a time of transition but renewable is the future.

It is ridiculous that entities with vested interests in the extractive fossil fuel industries are able to donate vast sums of money to political parties in exchange for permission to destroy our natural resources including water for their own short term profit.

We know that the burning of fossil fuels is no longer viable.

As it stands the continued burning of fossil of fuel and the consequent production of greenhouse gasses will drive up global temperatures by more than the 1.5 degrees. This was agreed by all the signatories to the Paris Climate Agreement on as being the upper limit for life on the planet to continue to exist without unbelievable disruption as a consequence of climate change.

Australia is signatory to that agreement.

The development of new mines and the burning of fossil fuels will be a crime against the planet and all living things.

There is no planet B. This precious world is our home. We are have evolved alongside the other living things to its particular conditions. Climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels is changing and will destroy the very systems upon which we rely for existence.

Fracking and its consequent production of CO<sub>2</sub> is not viable and should not even be considered. It would not just be a crime in terms of destruction of natural resources and systems, it will contribute dangerous outputs what have consequences for the whole planet. This is both a local and global issue.

Our gift to future generations should be a planet upon which they can live. That shouldn't be too much to ask surely?

A permanent statewide ban on fracking would be a good start to mitigating against climate change.

On 22nd May, 2014 I passed through a small town in far west Queensland, the most distant from the ocean, named ENAMANGA. Surrounded by massive mining activities it has a population of less than 50 permanent residents. We called in to the pub for accomodation but there was none. The barmaid offered a drink of local water. Here is an excerpt from my travel diary. (Quote) The barmaid is young, plump and cheerful, with glossy dark hair tied back in a thick wavy ponytail. I asked her how she managed to keep it so lovely. She tossed her head and flipped the tips with her fingers. "Oh, heaps of contintioner I suppose, the water here is terrible. There is a rainwater tank if you want to top up, don't use the tap outside. It's full of petrol. Come, I'll show you. It tastes bad and smells bad. Smelled it. Tasted it. Diesel fuel. Terrible! I ask about the foul water. "Oh, it's the mining. The gas and oil is in the water. We pass a group of hi Viz shirts coming towards the pub. I say "Hi guys, what do you all do around here?" "Mining." A glance of disbelief I don't know that.

I dread the impact of FRACKING in Western Australia on the health of people and natural environment if mining enterprise can't preserve the quality of local water for only 50 residents at this small town of ERAMANGA.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on human health and natural environment.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I have spent my own money and lots of my own time, both while working and now in retirement, trying to protect WA's biodiversity. This includes undertaking 100ha of biodiverse, mallee eucalypt-based revegetation for biodiversity restoration and carbon sequestration. I do not welcome attempts by big multi-nationals and other energy companies compromising what I have done for this planet.

Hello everyone, I wanted to write something myself, but once I read the below submission, I couldn't think of any better words to describe the way I feel:

I previously worked with the Karajarri people of Bidyadanga and there helped to defend their rights against exploitation of their groundwater. Our groundwater is sacred to the life of all plants, animals and humans in our state. The old people up there taught me that without healthy water everything is compromised. I don't want to have to drink filtered water because we have caused irreversible damage to our precious aquifers. Please please urge a statewide ban on fracking, for my family and my future children.

I value highly the protection of our state's cultural heritage and our natural environment. This includes not only individual plants, animals and places, but also extends to our food, water, air, climate, biodiversity, our natural and rural landscapes, as well as our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be undertaken anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on all of these values.

Industrialisation of landscapes, pollution of water and air, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, increased climate change are all irreversible and inevitable consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed. The development of new fossil fuels, including gas, will add to an increase in carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities right across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

It is simply not worth the risks – or consequences, as they are not risks but rather consequences that will occur and are well documented-to the environment and the farmland.

I am a civil engineer and allowing fracking would create jobs in my sector, yet I would rather jobs in the sustainable industries be created as in Europe.

There are better, sustainable ways to harness energy and to be honest I am embarrassed by Australia's reliance on coal, oil and gas. When I am in Europe and I hear and see the on going programs and emphasis on sustainable technology, I hold my head in shame when I have to tell people that despite the absolute abundance of sun, fact 98% of the population live along the coast with a good source of wind experienced almost daily, despite all this, the Australian government closes its eyes and follows the smell of money. It is embarrassing and the reason we are perceived as a slow backwards country that dares to call itself first world. The same reason why same sex marriage was only legalised 17 years after the first western country legalised it. There are more valid points below I encourage you to read. Above is my personal feeling on the subject.

Below you will find words that represent points I would like to convey to you. I ask you, would you not call a person a fool if they were to risk there heritage on a bet?

I was born and raised in WA, and spent the first 37 years of my life there. All my family is still in WA, so while I currently reside in Hobart, WA is a place of great importance to me. As such the fracking issue in WA also matters to me very much.

Australia has incredible wild areas that all Australians should seek to protect. I live in Queensland but the state borders do not stop my concern on activities in other areas of the country.

I am making a submission because I feel that the practice of fracking creates permanent damage to the environment that is intolerable to me.

Our society still does not grasp this, but a human being is themselves an ecosystem. We are filled with trillions of microorganisms without which we die. 1 gram of poo has more bacteria than stars in the known universe. What we do that damages the health of our environment damages, damages us too. We are not separate from the environment we are part of it.

The toxicity of fracking is not something that can just be cleaned up. Like nuclear waste, if our groundwater is polluted it can't be undone in any number of lifetimes we can imagine. Please take a strong stand against fracking

In the land of sunshine and with solar power technology advancing at such a rapid pace we do not need to pursue risky alternative sources of power!

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environmental heritage and believe our water supply is our most important asset.

If you look into fracking carefully you will find that companies do not really make money out of it. It is such a bad practice and just not necessary in a country such as Australia. It is bad energy policy by our governments that have caused the countries problems. I certain percentage of our gas and oil production should always have been kept for the domestic market before exporting, it is only common sense and with this there is no need to put our water supply, and crop growing resources at risk. We also know that tourism industry is extremely important and fracking puts this at jeopardy too,

It is to late when something goes wrong, especially where fracking affects our water table.

If in the future a need to harvest this gas becomes a necessity we should wait until a safer method is developed.

I am very concerned about proposed fracking in the Kimberley.

Buru's Yulleroo sites are among Wetlands at the top end of Roebuck Plains and not far from the Ramsar Listed Roebuck Bay. The Gas Fields are surrounded by permanent fresh water lakes and the area floods every wet season. Fracking in this area is not acceptable.

Mitsubishi's Valhalla Gas Field is in the Fitzroy Valley near Nookenhah Station. The Fitzroy River is a most precious part of the Kimberley, the life blood of the Valley and every wet season it provides rich nutrients to the Kimberley coastline. The area is subject to wet season flooding. There should not any fracking allowed in this area.

Further to the paragraph below I would also like to point out I can not start a business in fish farming in W.A as investors will no look all the while gas fracking is a threat to our water, another billion dollar business with massive future benefits for W.A goes by, aquaculture is a multi billion dollar industries tat can be set up in Perth

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation as we've seen in other states.

Our country has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed. Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs. It will be a forerunner for Australia !!

You only need to see what's happened elsewhere in the world. If you want to know what really happens talk to the people affected as companies will show you their fancy reports that will only hide what is actually happening. History shows that companies stop at nothing to make money and then any damages will be someone else's problem. Think of the future for your kids, grandkids, their kids etc.

I have been fortunate to holiday in the Kimberley region, and I place a high value on the protection of Western Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and (especially important) recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

Hi, below is a pre drafted email which was provided to me by a group who work to protect the environment. I could write my own personalised email but I really believe the below content summarise my thoughts perfectly. Please recommend a permanent ban on fracking in WA, it is a dangerous industry we really don't need and being a resident of the Kimberley the thought of fracking happening on my doorstep is truly worrying.

The submission hereunder is obviously prepared for Western Australians. As a very concerned observer from the big bad East, I implore you to set the bar high and establish a precedent for the Nation and ban fracking.

You only need to look at the USA where fracking has been allowed in too many natural environments to observe the severe detrimental impacts on water and air.

Pumping toxic chemicals into the ground to release gas often near the water table in a state with declining water resources is not worth the risk.

As a lifelong environmentalist and the daughter of a scientist, I place a high value on the protection of Australia's unique and precious natural environment and cultural heritage. Because it injects large amounts of harmful chemicals into the earth and consumes inordinate amounts of water, I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs in fulfillment of your solemn responsibility to Australians and to the world.

I place a high value on the protection of all of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage!

Better support of renewable energy industries will lead to greater employment prospects and the associated improved economic benefits without creating the negative impacts that fracking will impose. Renewable energy is a far more intelligent and sustainable choice than fracking.

I'm backing NO FRACKING... TY...

I place a high value on the protection of our nation's natural environment and cultural heritage. I do not believe that gas fracking can be undertaken anywhere without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Our nation has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed. Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry in WA to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across this State, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet its energy needs before any more irreversible permanent damage to its environment and peoples is done.

At a time when the rest of the world is moving away from fossil fuel industries and toward renewables any thought of perusing fracking in this state or even Australia is lunacy. Lets become a renewable energy super power and lead the world in clean energy.

It is obvious from the devastation caused across the United States by hydraulic fracturing that the science behind this method of gas extraction is extremely hazardous. Groundwater has been contaminated as has surface water; soil quality is ruined preventing any future use for agriculture; air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; etc. etc. I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values, which must also include the impact on Aboriginal heritage.

I have a problem with fracking that is deep rooted. The earth is precious; we need to live healthily alongside all our flora and fauna and to not disrespect and disrupt sacred places belonging to Aboriginal peoples. Nature, food, water and culture are necessary for harmonious existence.

I do not believe that gas mining can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

For future generations, for my children.

I place a high value on the protection of our countries natural environment and cultural heritage.

The impacts on public health have been recorded variously across the world including in Australia, causing debilitating sickness and dropping land values in the areas affected. To allow Fracking in WA is akin to showing disdain for the welfare of any, person or animal/plant in the designated Fracking areas.

Water is essential to all life as we know it, the risk of contaminating it through fracking is simply too high to allow this to happen. This has been proven in the USA and other countries globally and given the damage already shown to have happened elsewhere in Australia under our existing protections I can't believe it won't happen again.

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage. In many cases the natural environment is cultural heritage.

I add my voice as concerned Victorian, a state which has a ban on fracking. I have followed this issue for some years and accept it is bad for the environment.

If you are proud of the intellectual and scientific equity the state maintains, then put it to good use. Every one (other than perhaps those driven purely by greed and self interest) know that a strong future economy is best driven by investing in the development of clean and sustainable energy practices.

I honestly do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels – particularly those extracted in damaging means – are not needed.

I therefore call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a PERMANENT, LEGISLATED BAN ON FRACKING and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to instead recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I worked with the highest representatives of the oil sector in the 1980s and 1990s. Their view that we would have to cease using fossil, which requires the filth of burning, has only been confirmed since.

A very polluted planet in which a rising majority of a rising over 7bln people seeking to be part of the power civilisation means we have to go as lightly as possible.  
In China, 850 million will join the power civilisation, 2009 – 2030.  
Thirty-five billion tonnes, (670,000 Sydney Harbour Bridges) are burned each year. So that is a dead end.

Polluted? Rapidly rising temperature of plastic and rapidly acidifying oceans. Threatened Great Barrier Reef. Inability to look after the nation's first water system, the Murray- Darling Basin.  
We cannot help ourselves. Need to go lightly.  
And then fracking in a delicate but harsh country, with growing water problems.  
Keep it simple.

It is critical that all countries maximise their efforts to replace the burning of fossil fuels, releasing emissions from the deep geological carbon cycle, in order to avoid runaway climate intensification.

Protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage is critical for the ongoing environmental protection of WA and health .

Fracking is a last gasp attempt to extract relatively trivial amounts of remnant gas while carrying the highest possible risk of any form of gas extraction. It's development will further retard our transition clean energy. To manage atmospheric pollution, this fossil gas should remain in the ground.

I am sending this submission as I strongly support the need to ban fracking Australia- wide.

Beyond individual plants, animals and places, this high value extends to our ecosystems water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialization of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation and are quite invasive on communities.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to show some leadership and recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA as they are to risky and recommend the development of renewable energy resources instead to meet the state's energy needs.

PLEASE ban fracking before it's too late! We must put the environment before profit and start to care for our land for the sake of future generations!

Please.... don't be fooled in thinking the negative impacts on fracking in the US won't happen in Australia. It will. Don't get us into this cycle.

The 'Renewwa Symposium': sponsor of the Doctors for the Environment Australia Campaign, held on February 25th, 2017, focused on health, renewable energy and climate change. Here, Professor Bruce Armstrong speaking on public health responses to climate change health impacts, specifically pointed to loses of livelihood. Relocation to better conditions, if possible, reliance on income support and the psychological clout of depression and anxiety linked with the forced changes.

Dr Neville Ellis, researching at UWA on climate change and 'solastalgia', followed on to add that a 'sense of place' which is an emotional and psychological connection to a meaningful place that farmers have can lead to mental illness when climate negatively impacts. For example, seeing their farm blowing away in a wind storm due to prolonged drought.

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage. And I place a high value on our country's state of mental health!  
Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

Unconventional gas fracking can not be done without impacting on these thus in our fast changing climate of continued temperature increases and combined rainfall decreases the potential for environmental, therefor, human disasters including starvation is real.

Unconventional gas fracking can not be done without impacting on these. The extravagant use of limited water supplies that is not paid for by the users: the toxic poisons left underground and in 'settling ponds'; the uncompensated locals whose clean water supply is destroyed for even and their futures along with it. Our fast changing climate of continued temperature increases and combined rainfall decreases has the potential for environmental, therefore, human disasters. These could include rising mental illness and starvation.

At the same 'Renewwa Symposium', Dr Suman George, a soil scientist at UWA, stated that methane emissions from unconventional gas, recognisable by its signature isotope, accounted

for thousands of leaks in Boston which has pipelines crossing that city. The air quality had deteriorated by 700 percent.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

In fact, according to the just released, March 2018, report by Climate Analytics(2), a non-profit global organisation, titled "Western Australia's Gas Gamble: Implications of exploiting Canning Basin and other unconventional gas resources for achieving climate targets": page 3, 'the carbon footprint of WA's unconventional gas resources is about 3 times what Australia is allowed to emit in order to comply with the Paris agreement'. And 'the carbon footprint of the Canning Basin resources alone is equivalent to about DOUBLE this budget'.

The alternatives are obvious and waiting for a State leader to pursue. Stated within the same report on page 6: "WA has an unusually large and accessible combination of renewable resources. notably(emphasis added by this author)SOLAR, WIND AND GEOTHERMAL, as well as mineral resources critical to the GLOBAL LOW-CARBON TRANSFORMATION'.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet not only our state's energy needs but significantly to Australia's and the world's.

(1)References:Renewwa Symposium, Sponsor of the Doctors for the Environment, February 2nd, 2017, at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth, private note of author. (2) Hare B, Roming N and others, Report -Western Australia's Gas Gamble: Implications of exploiting Canning Basin and other unconventional gas resources for achieving climate targets, Climate Analytics: March 2018.

Values guide us in our lives and we refer to them when there are dilemmas placed in front of us. We must make decisions with an eye on the future. If we don't, we jeopardise the present of those who come later, even ourselves if the impacts are more immediate. Every day I am grateful for our clean water, food, and air.. I believe that no one has the right to threaten to take those things away

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these basic rights and the values which most West Australians hold dear.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources so why would fracking even be required?

Below is a pre-populated email which I believe in but I have added to at the start. I am an environmental scientist working with in industries such as mining, construction and oil and gas. I believe is a risk based approach to assessing projects and activities. Fracking is a fair greater risk that we can afford. You can put more 'environmental conditions' on the projects and the company may not comply (likely they will not in a lot of cases). The government may audit (once every 2 years) but they are not strict, they do not pick up on high risk activities normally. They normally are very inexperienced so items are missed. Some sites and companies are better than others but it is hard work to get them to comply. So when I hear that the government has put more 'conditions' on a high risk project to get it approved I just shake my head.

I have been to presentations where fracking is discussed and their risk is public perception. They have said in these presentations that they will convince the public that there is little to no risk (a lie) so that environmental approvals are achieved cheaper and quicker. These companies want everything to be cheaper therefore how can we expect them to achieve their environmental compliance. When they poison our water what are the contingencies? Who will be paying for any long term costs after they have completed the works? The taxpayer.

Fracking should be banned because it is too much risk. It is naive to think nothing will go wrong because an approval has 'conditions' on it. This will not change the methods to extract hydrocarbons.

Chemical fracturing cannot be done without massive long term risk to the environment

Having lived in WA for over 30 years and owned several properties.

I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage. How can you not if you live on this planet!!!

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values. Or anywhere in the world; just cause they do it elsewhere doesn't make it ok!

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is INCONSISTENT YO!!! with international agreements on climate change.

Please recommend a statewide ban on fracking! We cannot sustain this forever...when did making money become more important than what we leave behind for our children & grandchildren?

I also place a high value on leaving a natural environment that will allow future generations to enjoy a decent quality of life. Gambling with the future is foolish and selfish.

I do not believe that gas mining can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA with no impacts on these values. Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of open cut mining. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed.

A small step in the right direction, or the denial of a step in the wrong direction can ripple onward and grant momentum to positive change. be the step, be part of the ripple, ban fracking and any new development to an industry that is not sustainable and environmentally friendly.

I'm not convinced that our precious underground water resources in Western Australia will not be affected if fracking goes ahead. We are not short of gas in this state, previous governments have ensured a supply for WA from offshore gas as well as selling overseas, and we have abundant sunshine, wind and tidal potential for alternative power sources. Our agricultural land in particular should be sacrosanct in terms of protection of underground water resources.

I work in the environmental field and have grave concerns about the long term impact fracking will have on our landscape. Almost everything we currently do impacts our environment in some way... i first hand deal with trying to fix issues raised by practices that have degraded our landscape including over clearing of agricultural areas and salinisation of rivers and lakes. I can't express hard enough how no amount of current research being done into this 'relatively' (in environmental terms) new practice will be able to accurately show how it will impact our environment in 50 to 100 years.....

History has shown us time and time again the effects can be castastrophic when we disregard the environment....

Reservoir stimulation, including fracturing, can be done safely with no environmental impacts if done in the right place and the right way. I have approx 30 years working in this field and have yet to see any ill effects. Controls and strick monitoring needs to be in place. Companies and individuals failing to fulfill their obligations and not controlling their activities fully, should be held accountable and fined heavily. It must have an impact.

As someone who has lived in a variety of different; and often remote areas; in this beautiful state, I highly value the protection of our natural environment and cultural heritage. This environmental protection must extend to include all our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture. Along with hundreds of thousands of other Western Australians, I do not believe that gas fracking is compatible with environmental protection or in keeping with the development of sustainable fuel sources. Past fracking endeavours in Australia and elsewhere have evidenced the unacceptable impacts of this shortsighted activity.

Although CSIRO and affiliated fracking companies have insisted that the flammable methane bubbling up from the Condamine River is "just a co-incidence" unlikely to be related to the nearby fracking (yeah right sure! NOT!). There is no scientific agreement about this phenomenon. Better to be "safe than sorry" – once "unplugged", there is no "putting the genie back in the bottle".

Fracking is profligate with precious water resources – we need water for drinking, clean industry and agriculture – and not for squandering on the production of environmentally damaging fuels for which there are better alternatives readily available. The known chemicals used in fracking are highly toxic and may damage artesian water supplies and other undivulged chemicals used by frackers use are assuredly even more toxic. There is no excuse whatsoever to take this unacceptable risk with our water or air.

An April 2015 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, confirmed that high-volume hydraulic fracturing techniques can contaminate drinking water. There have

been numerous reports by US citizens across the country of fouled tap water; it is a fact that some of the tap water has even turned bubbly and flammable, as a result of increased methane. Well blowouts have happened, and they are a complete hazard to the environment. Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

It is important to avoid a fuel whose very production generates or liberates vast quantities of the most damaging greenhouse gas namely methane into the atmosphere.

Fracking wells, drilled hundreds of meters down, may change geology in a potentially negative way, leading to earthquakes. We are only just beginning to understand what we are doing to our local geologies, and this is dangerous. The 2014 Annual Reviews of Environment and Resources paper notes that “between 1967 and 2000, geologists observed a steady background rate of 21 earthquakes of 3.0 Mw or greater in the central United States per year. Starting in 2001, when shale gas and other unconventional energy sources began to grow, the rate rose steadily to [approximately] 100 such earthquakes annually, with 188 in 2011 alone.” New research on seismology in places such as Texas and Oklahoma suggests risky and unknown changes. It is just not smart policy to go headlong first – at massive scale – and only later discover the consequences.

A far more sensible, environmentally sustainable and proven approach would be to grow hectares of cannabis, a safe multi-purpose crop which has a low-water demand. It can be easily converted into fuel without distillation (as is required for ethanol fuels) which is in and of itself energy inefficient. Hemp derived fuels will not add any new or additional greenhouse gases into the environment. Fracking releases additional methane into the air and often the water (to the point it becomes flammable) – and this is old carbon. Growing hemp will extract carbon from the air during its growth and no more than was taken up by the plant will therefore return to the atmosphere when that fuel is burned. A massive benefit of cannabis or hemp as a fuel crop is the multitudinous by-products which can also be derived from that same plant – seed for human consumption and animal fodder, hurds for a variety of construction and paper producing applications, fibre for clothing and other applications and of course to produce the safest medicine known to humanity - fracking is dangerous but hemp is safe.

Although I am sending through a generic letter, my intention is consistent with the concerns expressed .

I am very concerned about the potential damage that fracking could do to the environment in WA. We are seeing a shift away from fossil fuels throughout the world, although there is still a demand for them Australia has vast reserves of gas, that does not need fracking to extract it. Western Australia flora and fauna survive in a very fragile environment. Our water resources are precious, our soils are sensitive and we have some beautiful untouched wilderness areas. We need to protect this environment for future generations.

All the evidence I have heard to date strongly suggests that fracking cannot be done safely and pollutes water sources, natural habitats and our climate. It is hugely polluting in terms of carbon emissions both from methane leakages and when the gas is burned for energy down the line. I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage and do not want to see these ruined for the short term profits of a few companies.

Worryingly many of the negative impacts cannot be reversed and water is already a highly precious resource in this country. Even the best regulation is unlikely to prevent these impacts.

No amount of regulation can stop the dangerous levels of carbon pollution emitted by this industry.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in AUSTRALIA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Given today's advances in hydrogen production and the emergence of the hydrogen fuel cell to invest into fracking now is foolhardy. Please be patient and consider the environmental ramifications of your decision, lest our souls remember the fate of the Great Barrier Reef.

I am concerned about the damage fracking can do to groundwater in particular. As a community, we must decide what resources to prioritise, and potable water should have a much higher priority than the fuel sources sought in mining.

In addition, I fear that the community can be hostage to the financial interests of the miners. Clearly, a state-wide ban on fracking would represent the desires of a much larger part of the community than mining companies.  
Please ban fracking.

As someone born and raised in Western Australia I have been blessed with a healthy environment throughout my growing years. I count myself fortunate to have experienced clean pure nature, unpolluted waters and fresh air. I have seen aboriginal sites with sacred waters flowing past rock art thousands of years older than Stonehenge or the pyramids. If we can do one thing as custodians of our precious heritage surely it is to pass our country on not just to our children but to all future generations. I propose nothing less than a 500 year plan. The environment around the planet is reeling from multiple pollutions and wanton destruction – all for short term greed. At the top of these activities is the Fossil Fuel industry. Our increasingly fragile environment needs us more than ever to cease harmful polluting and destructive practices such as Hydraulic Fracking and onshore gas drilling

In common language this is a No Brainer. To continue with fracking and expansion of fossil fuel extractive activities can be logically viewed as wanton destruction of our common wealth.

I am a very proud West Australian.

I love the people, the land, and the life that I am privileged to enjoy here. I am a husband and father to two children and I write this on their behalf as well.

We are afraid of a future with fracking in our state. The threat it has on our most important resources cannot be overstated. It threatens our fresh water, which is already scarce. It threatens our clean air, our communities, our landscape, and our soil. These are our most basic human needs, and must be protected for our own sakes as well as other flora and fauna we share this state with.

The Fracking process is impressive in its ingenuity and ambition, but it is flawed. Our aquifers, land and air will be polluted in Western Australia just as they have been permanently sullied elsewhere. Not a single Fracking shaft in the world is designed to last indefinitely and those toxic fracked gases will find their way into our precious resources. I sincerely hope that our most valuable assets are in the hands of virtuous and rigorous scientific and political leaders.

I want to live in a state with integrity at the helm, and a state with clean water forever underneath our feet.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the suitability of allowing Fracking in WA . Firstly I should point out that I accept the premise that we have already entered a new Epoch , the Anthropocene . I understand that this idea may not have been completely 'officially' accepted around the world , but believe that such acceptance is imminent , and that any Scientific Inquiry into activities with potential large scale impacts on the Biosphere (such as Fracking) must consider that activity in the context of it's contribution to the already accepted and measured impacts which are characteristic of the Anthropocene . I place a high value on the protection of our State's (and the World's) natural environment and cultural heritage.

Even natural beauty itself has a value (perhaps not a 'scientific' value as such , but this could be debated) . I have seen aerial photos of some of the Fracking fields in the USA , and do not believe that we should accept that sort of physical footprint on our land for any reason , even before consideration of all the other impacts that may ensue . In October 1982 , Australia voted in the UN to adopt the World Charter for Nature which states (section 11 b) : "Activities which are likely to pose a significant risk to nature shall be preceded by an exhaustive examination ; their proponents shall demonstrate that expected benefits outweigh potential damage to nature , and where potential adverse effects are not fully understood , the activities should not proceed " . Of course this is not 'binding' on States , but I do not believe that the Fracking industry would be allowed to proceed if this recommendation were implemented . I believe the 'precautionary principle' should apply and that that an activity with such potentially huge impacts , both immediate and downstream , should not proceed . As you will be aware , the USEPA has recently reported on the possible effects of Fracking on ground and surface waters . They state that : "hydraulic fracturing water withdrawals can affect the quality and quantity of drinking water resources by changing the balance between the demand on local water resources and the availability of those resources." (Executive Summary p15) In one detailed case study : "groundwater levels in approximately 6% of the area studied dropped by 100 feet to 200 feet or more after hydraulic fracturing activity increased in 2009" . Acceptable ? In terms of spills of Fracking fluids and additives , these certainly occur but the EPA states (p22) : "Due to a lack of data , particularly in terms of groundwater monitoring after spill events , little is publicly known about the severity of drinking water impacts ..." . Unacceptable ? What happens in the case of

extreme rainfall / flood events such as occurred recently in the NW of WA ? Is dilution an acceptable solution ? During the well injection process , the EPA states (p29) : "mechanical integrity failures have allowed gases or liquids to move to underground drinking water resources" . In the absence of thorough and complete studies of the pre-Fracking state and properties of groundwater resources it will be impossible to quantify subsequent effects ? In terms of produced water handling , spills and contamination / degradation of soil and surface waters (and groundwaters?) would seem to me to be an inevitable consequence of Fracking ? Again , thorough and complete baseline studies are essential to enable any meaningful future monitoring ? The issue of emissions (both fugitive and deliberate) from gas producing wells is another area where solid factual data seems to be less than ideal . I believe it is well accepted that these gas emissions need to be included in any accounting of the pros and cons of Fracking and subsequent gas production ? Every well should have the means to accurately and completely account for these emissions . Given methane's potential as a greenhouse gas , the accelerating pace of 'Climate Change' and the vast social and economic impacts that this will have on all countries , surely this sort of complete accounting must be a firm requirement ?

Pollution of air , soil and water, negative impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and more severe impacts on Climate Change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry.

if you have any doubts please look online at what has happened in the us,

Why oh why is this even being considered?

Fracking is a desperate measure of outdated mindsets! IT is not sustainable and will dry up – what then?

Have we not matured as a nation to a level of logical thinking.

It would appear that the ONLY reason a government would make a decision in favour of juvenile logic that is dirty, unsustainable, dangerous, disrespectful and not in harmony with natural law is that it has been bought out.

I guess we will soon find out who this government truly serves.

As an Australian, I place a high value on the protection of WA's natural environment and cultural heritage. Beyond individual plants and biodiversity hotspots, animals and places, this extends to our common water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values. This is not a time to limit the understanding of the problems of some new industries like fracking for gas extraction within state borders.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation as the CSG extraction on the East Coast and in other countries has demonstrated.

While the current mining boom has meant a hit to the economy and a loss of jobs, I don't think that just any jobs will contribute to the future of the nation. It is time to think about new industries, conservation of resources and lowering carbon emissions rather than continue in the boom and bust cycle of mining.

This is an opportunity for WA to take a lead in Australia.

Firstly I would like to say I am relieved to see scientists forming the panel investigating this issue. Secondly, I would like to be clear that I am writing to support a statewide ban on Fracking in WA – if I could it would be for an Australia wide ban.

Thirdly, It is important to protect our earth – the very nature of Fracking is an invasion into the earth in a way that will cause , I believe, unacceptable permanent damage or at the very least long term damage to the surrounding earth below and around where fracking is occurring. I am not a scientist but I can see the strategies used to obtain the gas (or if in the future considered for any other resource) are far too invasive and will cause a significant disturbance in the equilibrium of the surrounding area. Even if that area is out in the middle of the desert it makes no difference – it is still damage that is unacceptable. There is sufficient knowledge and capacity for us to obtain gas in a sustainable way rather than by damaging the very thing we rely upon to live.

Fourthly, there are too many examples of how man's invasion of the earth has caused damage to the environment and the people flora and fauna that are in proximity to this. Something as simple as our water supply , wetlands and artesian basin is a significant example of this where in the past and continuing we build houses and destroy the water table leading to further and further degradation. We need scientists to speak up and not be used to "fudge the books" as has been the past and current modus operandi in our society. Scientists have a duty of care to use their knowledge to protect our earth and us.

Fifthly, I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change which are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or remediated through regulation (regulation usually being self regulation which ultimately leads to all the things that were supposed to be "managed" being flagrantly ignored).

Sixthly, science and government monies need to be diverted to exponentially develop renewable energy sources further. The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and these need to be fostered as with other options including using our refuse to generate the energy we need – we need to fund the use of science to create our alternatives – not further destruction of our home..

We all should place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Pollution from fracking practises causes massive negative consequences on air and water quality , impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

I am a supporter of deep gas fracking as it is not harmful to the environment and is safe. In addition the technology developed for the extraction of gas and oil from deep shale beds had kept the price of oil low and that has certainly made an impact on the family budget. However I am totally opposed to coal seam gas extraction via fracking as there is some evidence that it interferes with fresh water aquifers

Fracking is NOT the future. Fossil fuels are NOT the future.

Please urge the state government to invest in renewable energy instead. This is the way to boost the economy going forward — as well as to protect our state and our climate.

In particular, WA is in the perfect position to make good use of the Sun's free energy. Let's put our time and resources into building solar farms, instead of destroying our beautiful state!

As a regular tourist to your state I would be shattered & discouraged if it ended up covered in craters from fracking like Queensland! I have just visited Broome, the Kimberley & the special Bungle Bungles. The potential for worldwide tourism is phenomenal as there are so many amazing natural wonders like the Horizontal Falls & Windjana Gorge but these will be sabotaged by fracking! The future prosperity of W.A. is in tourism but not if the environment is compromised. Don't be greedy, conserve your natural wonders!

Fracking is the most dangerous threat to our natural water tables ever. Any one who thinks that the small amount of gas we might gain is worth the risk of destroying this thirsty countries water tables is completely insane. Australia produces massive quantities of gas that we sell overseas for a percentage of what it is worth. Whoever made these deals is a traitor to this country. Fracking is NOT the answer. Sensible local use of our resources IS.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across AUSTRALIA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I have seen what fracking does, on a visit to an American friend. They have no recourse , as regulations are only restrictive on paper. They have not stopped the well from fouling, the air from souring and the noise from abusing.

Clean land, air and water must trump profit-making, that is a core Aussie value.

Many of the regulations are sidestepped or totally ignored, as evidenced in the USA and in WA itself by some mining concerns.

Please, will the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs?

Please recommend a total BAN on fracking in WA

Anyone who has researched, read, heard or experienced the appalling environmental and human health impacts of fracking would totally understand that this is a deadly dangerous industry that must be banned across the globe. It is totally unnecessary in this era of renewable energy. The only ones to benefit from it are the multi national corporations.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on water, soil, air, earth, farms, natural environments, wildlife, humans and climate.

I was most interested to see that the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry is now seeking submissions from the public on the risks of fracking in WA. The Background Paper released by your Inquiry has pointed to serious environmental, health, human and economic risks associated with the fracking. I would like to add my voice to this investigation.

I was born in Perth in 1953 and have lived in WA for most of my life. I am well aware of the precariousness of our environment. I also worked in the U.S. for a number of years in the last decade and became acutely aware of the dangerous and deleterious effects of fracking in different American states across both rural and urban environments. These effects include the shocking and well documented devastation of farming and urban lands, with water taps turning into flaming hazards and terrible pollution of water sources, rendering dangerous the health and long term viability, indeed liveability, of places affected. If this is not enough of a warning, some states, such as, to give but one example, Oklahoma, are now suffering a hugely increased rate of serious earthquakes caused by this dangerous and deeply flawed geological process, which no ethical geologist could justify. These dangerous effects are copiously documented, with counter-arguments largely spurious and based on short term, pecuniary self-interest.

W.A. has a most precarious environment and there are ample ways to extract required mineral wealth without endangering the health of the population, the state of the environment, and indeed, ironically, even the economic dimensions of these very industries without fracking, a proven dangerous process. I was present at a well-attended public meeting in the Uniting Church, Kalamunda, in August 2017, where the Minister of Water Resources, together with water resources and environmental specialists clearly and scientifically explained such matters and the dangers of fracking. It is also clear that the further development of renewable energy resources will greatly meet the state's energy needs, which I believe the Inquiry should also recommend as the logical accompaniment of this matter.

In all ways, I strongly encourage your inquiry to maintain, extend and make permanent in legislation the bans on fracking and unconventional gas activities across the state for the benefit of the people and the environment, and the future of Western Australia. I trust that the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry will recommend such a course.

There is extensive evidence that should prevent the unconventional gas industry in Western Australia from being allowed to contaminate the environment.

One document worth consulting is The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (the Compendium), 2nd edition, 2014 which examines a vast number of studies published in US peer reviewed journals and other literature. It concludes:

“All together, the findings from the scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations indicate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, and long-term economic vitality.”

Ignoring for a minute the damage unconventional gas activity causes to the ecology, water and health, allowing the dramatic increase in global warming that the WA gas industry would generate would be unconscionable.

With the market revealing the juggernaut of RE Sector jobs specifically the 3000 RE Qld jobs in 2017 and Jay Wetherall's SA RE jobs boom. WA should be emulating the SA Premier's two main attributes – LEADERSHIP and BACKBONE.

To sacrifice WA's current and future generations to the preventable environmental, and human degradation which IS THE CSG INDUSTRY, is inexcusable in a time and place where the market demands and accommodates viable economic and environmentally responsible alternatives, such as the RE sector as 'the Energy way forward'.

As a health professional, I see a deep connection between the health of our planet and that of people. This extends to our water, food, air, biodiversity and climate. Gas fracking would have unacceptable impacts on these values.

Fracking risks health both immediately and in the longer term. Immediately, fracking has been associated with small-for-age babies (with potential adverse future health consequences) and respiratory and other disease. It can also affect water quality, with potential direct effects on people, as well as indirect effects when scarcity of quality water affects ecosystems upon which humans rely.

Further, climate change presents extremely serious present and (especially) future risks to human health. Most fossil fuels need to remain in the ground – even development of conventional gas in WA would blow WA's carbon budget, let alone unconventional gas such as is retrieved with fracking.

Dear Panel, Please note the protection of Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage is more important than ever and I strongly oppose any fracking.

I cannot believe that after all the evidence being that pollution and fracking go hand in hand, WA is considering allowing multi national companies to frack our pristine state. If the threat to our irreplaceable water tables and unique native animals from fracking was allowed it would show that greed is king. We need to place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage

Please consider our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our health. Surely the track record of gas fracking has been seen to destroy these mentioned critical elements of everyone's basic needs.

Also Australia should be going in the direction of renewable energy, not more carbon pollution. We all need to work with nature . . . not against nature.

I have not changed the following text because I agree with all of it.

Hello. I am a concerned father of six healthy children. We enjoy and SEEK natural areas for our bonding and spiritual growth. I believe as a collective mass: WE NEED TO CARE FOR OUR EARTH. PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING.

I NATHAN BELIEVE, following a moderate amount of research. FRACKING SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN AUSTRALIA. AND As follows.

My biggest concern is for our incredibly precious water resources. Our Water should be protected at all costs once contaminated there is no way back, consider future generations. Any threat to our Water is not acceptable. Our state has been blessed with many natural resources we must use them wisely with minimal impact on our water, environment, farming and our indigenous community.

I appeal to the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs. Protect our state don't destroy it.

I panic over the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage and the Government's decision to ban fracking in some areas and a moratorium to 2020 on the rest of the State is very welcome. As well as our native flora and fauna this concern extends to our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our natural landscapes, and our Aboriginal culture with its connection to country.

The evidence of gas fracking is so dangerous for our water supply and our food production that it is impossible for me to believe that it can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

Government also has to consider the impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change which are inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Government regulators have fallen short in areas such as installation of insulation batts and the infrastructure for NBN so we cannot risk this industry ever getting the go ahead even with regulations in place.

Please leave fossil fuels where they are as such development is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are unnecessary.

I believe the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry should recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking gas activities throughout WA, and to recommend increasing development of renewable energy resources without risking the prophecy of Mad Max coming true.

Please do not be fossil fools. There is no need to put our environment at risk by fracking anywhere.

We have the capacity to meet our energy needs sustainably.

I am passionate about our unique environment in Western Australia. When I travel in other parts of the world I realise how special this ancient environment is and how important it is that we look after it. This is especially important given the effects on the world of climate change. Fracking seems to me to be a last-ditch attempt to use fossil fuels when we should be moving towards using renewable energy and protecting our environment.

Fracking poses an unacceptable risk to our natural environment and cultural heritage.

I am asked to make and support a submission. And I wonder to whom? It is beyond comprehension that anybody who considers themselves to be human could even condone the compulsory destruction of an established home, farm, livelihood of another human for personal gain; let alone the ongoing destruction of our wonderful flora and fauna. On every human value I implore any reader of this submission to stop this madness. It is immoral and of no value to the people who live in Western Australia. The value of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage is beyond calculation and is not a matter for economic discussion. In the present world situation WATER is our most desperate concern, even now this essential element of life is offered for drinking grossly polluted with unnecessary additives destroying the health of the population. It is time to change the political consciousness to address the future needs and welfare of the people in this country, and stop the short term fire fighting for quick financial gains by people who demonstrate no heart or care for their fellow human beings.

And let us not fool ourselves, we may call our indigenous people ABoriginals in attempt to do so, because this means "NOT original", but they are also Human Beings and with their culture and connection to country they deserve a louder voice than I can shout. Together with them, and all unique plants, animals and places, our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, I join them with my voice. STOP THIS MADNESS. In the name of humanity and common sense, stop it. It is time for us to remember that responsibility lies with individuals and not faceless financial committees.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and human misery including unnecessary deaths are already proven to be inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry in other Australian States and world countries. So any argument to the contrary including pleas that they can be avoided or managed through regulation must be treated with the contempt they invoke.

The world scene is changing quickly and a continual reliance on fossil fuels including gas which may increase carbon pollution is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has been blessed with sufficient renewable energy resources to make fossil fuels unnecessary, except for filling the temporary pockets of those who consider money more important than human life and well being.

I call upon everybody, including the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

Fracking for gas is one of the most toxic processes ever invented. The gas produced can never be considered a clean transition fuel – it uses vast amounts of water that is then permanently contaminated. We cannot afford to waste that water in our arid land. And that dryness is set to continue and exacerbate as concurrent records show. Our dams are at record lows. We are relying on ground water injected with our "processed sewerage " (risky due to hormones drugs and the potential for bacterial accidents) together with desalinated water to meet our water needs.

Moreover we do NOT need any transition fuels. The technology available through clean renewable energy sources and battery storage has rapidly overtaken any need for this. Solar. Wind. Thermal. Tidal. Hydro.... All that is required is for government – especially federal – to stop blocking it's development and uptake. Many countries are already fossil fuel free for their energy requirements and others well on the way. Australia is one of the few countries going backwards with our governments love affair with fossil fuels. All future cars and trucks will be electric -again overseas as we are so backward. Some countries have put timelines on this as we should.

The contaminated waste water from fracking is injected deep into the earth, passing through aquifers along the way. These casings will ALL eventually fail and their contaminated products WILL leak into the aquifers rendering them permanently contaminated also. Water security (together with climate change) is one of the most important and critical issues that will determine our (humanity's) survival. Many "leaking" accidents have already happened. The very process of fracking has been proven to facilitate the occurrence of earthquakes further hastening the risk of casing breakdown and aquifer contamination.

And once an aquifer is contaminated it is no longer able to be used for drinking, crops, livestock or support life of any kind including the natural environment. Thousands of livelihoods lost in the short term and lives in the longer term. Why should short term gas which is already redundant be given priority over long term sustainable essential industries such as food production. And even if an aquifer isn't currently used for drinking or agriculture or be a contributor to other water sources that doesn't mean it won't need to be in the future.

It us a little known fact that the waste from fracking is radioactive – yet NO special precautions are taken to contain this.

The emissions from fracking are unacceptably high and includes methane – a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. We are currently in climate crisis globally. Australia has already suffered deaths and millions of dollars in damages from cyclones floods droughts and bushfires. We cannot afford to continue to treat climate change as a one day occurrence. It is happening NOW as statistics prove. It has been warned about since the 70s that I know of, possibly earlier. It can no longer be business as usual. One of our few defences against climate change is to both stop using fossil fuels (which includes banning all new mines and explorations) as well as protecting and regenerating our forests and bushland. This can't happen with water contaminated by fracking.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in Australia without unacceptable impacts on these values.

My name is Guy Sullivan, I live in the Western Australia's Mid West.

I work part time as a farm laborer for a small goat dairy in Bookara, and part time as a youth officer in Mullewa.

I oppose the idea of fracking in the area as it jeopardises the only reliable source of water for the region.

Independent scientific research has proven that hydraulic fracturing of the geological layers causes de-pressurisation of groundwater supplies and the contamination of fracking fluids into aquifers!!

I cannot see how this could be seen as an option!??

After air, we only have a few days of survival before we die of thirst, drink poisoned water and you get sick!

To mess with the water table for the small profits of a few small companies would be a gross mismanagement of resources!!

I would like to see the politicians legislate the ban on fracking within the state to make it harder for the fossil fuel industries to get their foot in the door!

I don't want to have to become fearful that a change of government means the threat is back on!! Please respect the people and families that rely on our farmland and water resources to make a living!!

The industrialisation of our agricultural lands would be a poor use of such a valuable resource!! I am happy to be working for a small family owned farm and do not intend to seek employment within the resources sector!

The communities out here need real support, not just a company to move in for the next few years, promise big, and leave!! That cycle of growth is not sustainable in the long run at all!! I have met with farmers from the United States who have shock horror stories of what has happened to their communities and countryside once the extraction industries move in.. They were so strong in their opposition to the extraction industries! I agree with them fully!!

Keep WA FRACK FREE

RESPECT WATER, SOIL, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR CULTURES!!

I expect that you will likely be hearing submissions on the levels of safety and risk associated with fracking, and I would like to point out some things we have learned from the past. With the best of intentions, we seem to frequently think things are safe when they are not. A very recent example is the 3M fire retardant foam used at an Australian Defence base in Northern Territory which was said to be safe but ended up poisoning the local groundwater, affecting drinking water, irrigation and livelihood, and washing water.

Internationally, in the coal seam gas industry itself there are many cases of exploration and mining where it was said to be safe or “manageable”, but that ended up with farmers having ruined well water, and communities having their streams polluted. We don't have to repeat the same mistakes to learn from them. Australia is mostly desert. In our country, more perhaps than others, risks to water carry a great deal of importance.

We like to live in a thriving economy, but there are limits to what we are willing to risk for wealth. Safe, clean water must be an absolute limit beyond which we will not go for any short term gain.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my thoughts.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done safely anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on our land, water and air.

I was HORRIFIED to learn of the unacceptably enormous carbon emissions produced by the fracking industry. This knowledge should be the final nail on the coffin for further attempts to frack in Australia; on top of the risks of contaminating our precious underground water supplies; and other environmental damage that could be produced.

The evidence for this claim is undeniable. We must give our legislators every encouragement to stop this industry in its tracks.

AND I strongly believe that gas fracking CAN BE DONE in WA with low to no impacts on these values.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and man-made climate change are NOT inevitable consequences of an unconventional gas industry in WA. Many of these impacts CAN DEFINATELY be avoided or managed through regulation.

The development of new fossil fuels, including gas, are an IMPORTANT part of our future. Greens groups, such as the CCWA would have you believe that the exploration and development of gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. This is simply not true. Gas is a feedstock for many important items that are necessary for our modern world. Furthermore, it is a low-fossil alternative to coal for the generation of base load power.

So called "renewable resources" cannot provide baseload power, and despite all the money (US\$2.6 trillion since 2004) invested in intermittent renewables, less than 1% of the world's energy needs are provided by IRE. Renewables simply cannot keep pace with electricity demand growth and therefore, without nuclear, more NOT LESS fossil fuels will be needed. Gas provides a lower emissions alternative to coal.

Each project should be assessed on its merits. There should NOT be a blanket ban as hydraulic fracturing can be safely and without impacts as is shown by successful operations throughout the world.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry NOT to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and NOT TO WASTE OUR MONEY in the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I do believe that gas fracking can be executed in WA without having a major impact on these values. I feel that each application should be assessed on their individual risks. Gas fracking development in suitable areas of WA will have a major benefit to the economy, aboriginal employment and potentially the protection of species and biodiversity through effective feral fauna control.

I also feel that the regulators have an opportunity to be more proactive in this space and promote the independent research available. Some exceptional work has been done in this space from the respected and independent ReFINE institute in the UK.

Having a state wide ban on lower carbon fuel sources and industries, including uranium and unconventional gas is outrageous in this day and age. If the CCWA was serious about climate change then they would not be pushing this agenda.

Through strong and proactive regulation the associated environmental impacts can be avoided or managed to an acceptable level.

While our state has plentiful renewable energy resources, fossil fuels are still required in the medium term and we should be looking to transition away from brown coal to majority gas supply.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to not recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA.

As a primary school teacher and role model for the growing generations,

Water is such a valuable commodity and fracking... pumping water and various chemicals into the ground with varying effects on the water aquifers.

Consider banning fracking in our state or putting into place extremely well thought out regulations to protect freehold land and National Parks from the damaging effects of the industry ... roads; bores/wells; power supplies, waste, using the water on the land.

Water is life! I can't fathom why a government would risk irreparable damage to our precious water table in pursuit of an energy source that will be out priced by cleaner source in the very near future.

As someone who has previously worked in the oil and gas extraction industry I nevertheless place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

There is a Native American saying: "we do not inherit the land from our fathers, we borrow it from our children."

We have a responsibility to those that follow us to leave them a clean and functioning environment.

For the sake of our children and our grand children and our great grand children we need to reduce carbon emissions to ensure a habitable earth. Fracking increases carbon emissions therefore making the planet uninhabitable for future generations. Please take heed.

As a geophysicist I can say that it is not possible to undertake physical alteration of strata by fluid injection (fracking) without unwanted effects. Such unwanted effects can include mixing of saline water into fresh aquifers and uncontrolled leakage of fracking fluid into fresh aquifers as well as uncontrolled leakage of gas into the atmosphere.

I am very concerned that Government departments have been so depleted of expertise that they are not capable of monitoring any form of compliance, environmental or otherwise – as evidenced by the Children's Hospital lead saga, flammable cladding in high rise buildings, water entitlements in the Murray/ Darling Basin etc, etc.

Further, any reliance on self monitoring and reporting of compliance issues is clearly problematic, often coming to light when the horse has bolted and damage irreversible.

Why is Australia still in the dark ages with using fossil fuel for power, not to mention the dramatic impact it has on our environment. The future is alternate sources of energy, not the continuing rape and destruction of the environment!!!

SA is leading the way in renewables and battery storage. We have as much, if not more, sunshine and wind as that state. Therefore, there are no barriers (except political will) to prevent WA from exceeding SA and indeed becoming a 100% renewable energy state in the close future.

In addition to the following aspects relating to environmental issues, it is also necessary to look at the cost of fracking to the economy vs the cost of the environmental damage to this country. Fracking corporations are mainly foreign which means that their profits go overseas with no benefit to the Australian economy; they obtain subsidised water & power in some instances; they will most likely use 457 visa holders as employees which means that not only is a substantial amount going overseas but Australians will be unemployed and both of these aspects have a real and devastating affect on Australia's economy; IF they pay taxes in Australia it will be minimal; and if Royalties of OUR gas reserves are any indication we may receive little or no royalties. So, very little economic value to Australia with a big likelihood of substantial clean up costs; WATER which is precious in Australia being contaminated (something that can't be reversed) and damage to vital agricultural and other land that would be difficult to reverse. So, other than vital environment issues show below... WHAT ECONOMIC VALUE IS FRACKING TO AUSTRALIA. The answer is NONE, however foreign mega corporations make a \$\$\$\$ killing.

We should in fact be LEADING Australia in the development of renewable energy systems, with the concomitant development of jobs, economic growth and energy security. Fossil fuel companies cannot measure up on any of these three criteria.

As a frequent visitor to the natural and cultural wonders of Western Australia I place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I am a registered nurse concerned about the health impacts of fracking on access to fresh drinking water and toxic contamination from the undisclosed chemicals used in this barbaric process to access energy.

There are existing alternatives in clean energy technologies and if only the determination extraction and energy industries placed on fracking was redirected towards innovation and new job creation, sustainable long into the future the health and well-being of our planet could be assured.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable increases in emissions that contribute to climate change. Furthermore, these operations are inherently risky in terms of water and/or air pollution – risks that are difficult or impossible to manage through regulation.

The development of new emission-intensive fossil fuels including gas from fracking operations will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend that the development of renewable energy resources be given priority in meeting the state's future energy needs.

I am seriously concerned about the viable future of our environment. We seem to be putting the capacity to earn money above the wellbeing of the planet. Research has shown the problems with fracking and in my opinion we have other greater resources we can tap into for energy sources. Wind and solar are two examples of resources that we have in abundance. Please consider the alternatives.

The deliberate fracture of coal seams underground, to release trapped methane into the atmosphere, in the hope of collecting some of it to burn for fuel, is a destructive process which lays waste to land and water resources, vital for the existence of mammalian life. International experience has clearly demonstrated that it's destructive effects can not be mitigated. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas which accelerates global warming even before it is burned to carbon dioxide and water. It is an uncontrollable process which needs to be banned.

Don't go down in history as the one who destroyed WA and harmed millions of people.

I place a high value on the protection of Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage. I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA or any state without unacceptable impacts on these values.  
Australia has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

I find it disturbing that business groups in our society are willing to put at risk the state's environment purely in the name of profit. I would find it somewhat less distasteful if these groups were willing to be held responsible both morally and financially well in to the future for their current activities, but they are not and their commercial status protects them in this endeavour. That is why I believe it imperative that a statewide ban remains on fracking.

Learn from what is happening overseas, groundwater pollution is a real concern.

Fracking is unthinkable in any circumstances !!!

Total ban on fracking is Needed urgently for our future.

We do not own the earth, we are the custodians for our children and grandchildren. Please ban fracking.

I place a high value on the protection of our country's natural environment and cultural heritage. I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA, or the rest of Australia, without unacceptable impacts on these values.

W.A is a beautiful state which also makes a lot of revenue from mines so to allow fracking would be a fricking big greedy mistake.

It is unbelievable to think our government would allow our beautiful country to be so damaged. You have the duty to do what is best for the people of this country not what is best for industries that want to destroy our future to keep filling their own pockets.

My grandchildren are growing up in WA, so I have a strong interest in preserving a healthy environment there. Apart from that personal concern, I have a strong interest as an Australian citizen in Australia keeping to its international agreements on climate change.

Thank you for listening to me, even though I am not an Australian. I believe your citizens place a high value on the protection of your state's natural environment and cultural heritage.

with curriculum for thesis, hemp reed silk webbed up over existing old infrastructure in atrium canister planted planter tree rooms, wouldnt that stop the need for fracking sacred ailing earth? so please stop destroying our ailing sacred planet, with such outdated proceduers, causing how many more devastating affects?

Terrestrial gas in WA represents a bigger carbon resource than the proposed Galilee Basin coal mines in Qld. Both carbon sources should remain in the ground to keep the earth from an overheated future.

I place a high value on the protection of our state's and our whole country's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA, nor in New South Wales (Pilliga) without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I place a high value on the protection of our country's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I am extremely concerned that livability in WA will require expensive measures to adapt to current climate change trends due to carbon emissions.

The value of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage is much more important than dollar profits from fossil fuel production.

Our water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country need to be given every protection. Regulation does not prevent large scale disasters occurring from fossil fuel extraction, particularly at industrial scales.

How can we countenance fracking?

Are we so poor, so desperate, that we must grasp at this vulgar process to get by? It is a disgusting process, how can we stoop so low?

Our wealth and our abundant natural resources are not impervious to fracturing and pillage. Fracking is a robbery from the earth, it is a taking of what we desire with violence and disregard. The science is clear enough and the whole concept of fracking is an assault to right thinking persons.

I place a high value on the protection of our nation's natural environment and cultural heritage.

I do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA or in the rest of Australia without unacceptable impacts on these values.

I am deeply concerned about the emissions from gas wells and their adverse health impacts on those living near them.

I am also deeply concerned about the dangers of the chemicals used in the fracking process and the likelihood of these chemicals leaching their way through the rocks either into underground water supplies or back up into the atmosphere, ie the air being breathed by those who live in the area.

We have a large enough health bill as it is and it seems obvious that doing something that is known to cause serious ill health is pretty dopey. We are still dealing with the outcome from ignoring warnings about asbestos and cigarette smoking for so long. How many times must we do this before we use stop hurting our people and adding unnecessary costs to the health budget?

We have also ignored warnings about our environment and are now having to deal with those impacts too.

For a country that prides itself (does it not?) on how “developed” we are, how much ahead of other western nations, how highly we rate on many issues compared to other western nations, it leaves me speechless to hear that we want to put gas wells everywhere we can, given the damage they can and do do.

I find it completely amazing that in Australia we apparently are still finding it necessary to find and “dig up” more fossil fuels. We have such an enormous opportunity to use renewable energy and yet it's as though our policy makers only want to put their \$ into fuels that cause harm. We have enough gas and coal in existing wells and mines. I am totally opposed to any more of either being permitted anywhere.

I ask that this Inquiry recommend that the government legislate a permanent ban on fracking and all unconventional gas activities in WA.

I also ask that the government gets on with properly and sufficiently funding renewable energy generation so that we don't have to have this argument again.

Therefore, I hereby declare my will that all on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

I don't live in WA, but here in the NT we also have a very similar situation (a fracking inquiry) happening here right now. Fracking won't have just a local impact, but it is a global issue of concern.

I also place a high value on local natural environment and cultural heritage. The science really is clear – the world can not afford the consequences of burning much more in the way of fossil fuels. Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be simply “managed through regulation”.

Australia has plentiful renewable energy resources. More fossil fuels are not needed.

As an Australian citizen currently living in the U.K. I'm extremely alarmed to read about the intended fracking in WA, and fear for both the degradation of the local natural environment and for the huge contribution it will make to the global carbon emissions. UNACCEPTABLE !

I hope to come home to a country that puts the health of our local and global environment above the demands of unnecessary resources consumption. Please implement a ban for all the reasons outlined below.

I am appalled that the beautiful state of WA would even consider allowing fracking to take place. We need to protect our water supply and our environment.

Gas fracking involves using loads of water and toxic chemicals and pumping them into the ground. There are videos where farmers can light up their water and it burns due to all this toxic waste from fracking. There is no way that it is ever safe to pump loads of toxic chemicals in the ground and not expect it to eventually have a detrimental affect on our water and environment. In addition to this, fracking has caused farmers to commit suicide due to the greedy gas companies polluting and ruining their land just to make an extra dollar. They gain access to peoples properties without their consent and ruin peoples lives.

The pollution from fracking can never be reversed and should not be allowed to occur. We should be protecting our country/state and keeping it beautiful and not create a toxic mess just so that someone can get rich to the detriment of the entire state.

Australia has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.