

## Fracking Enquiry Submission

My name is David Cook and I have lived and farmed in Dandaragan all my life. Our farm "Noondel" is close to the proposed gas exploration area and has been farmed by my family for 5 generations. Our farming activity has always revolved around the production of high quality meat. Our main pursuit now is organic beef marketed as Dandaragan Organic Beef. We are a major supplier to the organic beef market in Perth and we are known for our "clean and green" product.

Contamination of water, soil or air would render our business de-certified and see us unable to supply our customers in Perth.

I believe the risks posed by the development of the Dandaragan deep gas prospect are by far the greatest threat to our livelihood and health since Dandaragan was developed for farming in the 1800's.

To have our district industrialised with all the obstructive infrastructure of pipe lines, roads, well heads combined with gas leakage and toxic flaring would render farming here untenable. The health risks would see the vibrant growing community decimated. My even greater concern is the probability that our greatest resource, underground water aquifers, would almost certainly be contaminated over time and permanently lost as a pristine water resource. This is the resource that will, if allowed, drive future prosperity in the district in a sustainable way and create far more job opportunities than a few years of gas extraction by a multinational.

A DPA survey of 1035 conventional wells in WA found 11.7% had an integrity failure (ref Petroleum in WA –Review of Well Integrity in WA-April 2015). It is logical unconventional wells as proposed will have an even greater risk of failure over time because of the high pressure fracturing process and the difficulties associated with horizontal drilling. The geology in the Dandaragan area is complex with many fault lines and porous structures this must add greatly to the risk.

Penalties for contamination of water supplies are outdated and toothless especially when compared to the financial strength of a large gas company

. eg Pollution of water supply penalty not more than \$10000 (Health Act 1911) and also:-  
Regulation 33 (Petroleum and Geo thermal Resources Regulations 2015)- Requirement to control well integrity hazard or risk- max fine \$10000 (ref Shale and Tight Gas in WA 2015 DMP)

Where precious water aquifers occur, a zero tolerance for contamination should be enforced with prohibitive penalties and tight regulation. Communities must have their water and air protected. There are many precedents where water resources have been contaminated. I have had direct contact with one disastrous case in Wyoming where as a result of fracking all drinking water is brought in in bottles and household water is permanently polluted to the point where gas has to be vented from the water before it can be safely used. All members of this family and their neighbours have had serious health problems as a result of their exposure. The geology incidentally in their case is similar as in Dandaragan. (ref John Fenton Wyoming)

The act that allows coal gas and oil exploration more rights than mineral exploration needs to be repealed .This would allow more common sense to prevail by allowing landowners some right to veto the downgrading of their land and livelihood.