

**SUBMISSION TO:**

**WA SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE STIMULATION  
IN WA 2017**

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I am a concerned community member. After watching a video showing the devastation caused by Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation around the world and in particular Queensland in our own beautiful country I must my alarm at the prospect of such practices being carried in many areas in Australia. When looking at satellite pictures of the world it is obvious how little arable land we do have and how low our water supplies are in Australia.

As custodians we all have a duty to do our utmost to protect what we have for future generations.

One doesn't have to be in the near vicinity of gas mining including fracking as it spreads its tentacles to areas such as the methane gas escaping in the Condamine River to be fearful of dire consequences from this industry.

I recall the earthquake at Meckering many years ago where one can see the rise and fall of the land which would have been disastrous had gas mining or fracking been operating at the time. This quake was felt all over the city of Perth including my home. There are many shifting tectonic plates around Australia and the world but other causes for an earthquake are drill holes for extracting gas and then the miners fill the holes with salt water.

On the Web one can study mining activities e.g. in Oklahoma USA earthquakes have increased from 3 in 2008 to 903 in 2015 a direct result of the multiple drill holes around this State.

Chemicals used in the gas industry are another reason that this dirty industry should be banned. A typical 15 million litre fracturing operating system would use from 80 to 330 tons of chemicals. There are hundreds of examples of contamination of ground and surface water here and overseas. Gas emissions and Methane venting in the Condamine River and Wambo Creek in Australia are also making a massive contribution to global warming.

**Poisoning our earth like this is absolutely preposterous. Nature will not tolerate this abuse.**

A gas industry study last year in Pennsylvania found that more than 6% of gas wells leaked in the first year of operation, and up to 75% of existing wells could have some form of integrity failure.

The gas industry claims that fracking can be done safely if it is regulated appropriately.

The response to this is growing evidence that even strict regulations are simply not capable of preventing harm. Industry studies and independent analyses indicate inherent engineering problems including uncontrolled and unpredictable fracturing, induced seismicity leading to increase in earth tremors, plus well casing problems, infrastructure integrity issues and leaks that cannot be prevented despite apparent "best practice" regulations.

If a shale gas industry is established in the Kimberley and Mid-West regions, appropriate monitoring and compliance is unlikely due to resource constraints in Government Departments, the large number of production wells required and the remote locations of many of these wells.

**We don't want this disaster in Australia.**

We will end up with food and water shortages, devastation of the wildlife, the land and our trees would all die.

An economic collapse must be inevitable.

As for local jobs the estimated numbers show the gas and oil industry is one of the smallest employers in Australia employing less than 0.2% of the Australian workforce. (Just 22,000 out of a total workforce of around 12.5 million. Bunnings employs 40,000 workers across its stores in Australia and New Zealand. Natural energy such as solar, wind and tidal would easily equal and surpass these numbers and it would be ongoing with maintenance jobs to support them.

I recommend that the Government should ban unconventional gas mining.

I recommend that the Government should have a constant and unwavering policy to always use alternative energy sources i.e. Solar wind and tidal which will always be the best and cheapest alternative.

The community does not want unconventional gas.

I respectfully submit this paper to the WA Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry in Hydraulic Fracture and Stimulation in Western Australia 2017-18

Vivienne Doonar