

Dear Inquiry Panel,

I oppose all onshore gas mining in Western Australia.

I want a total onshore gas field ban in or near our agriculture lands, aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams, underground water table, towns, national parks or indigenous sacred sites. That is the only way to go, they do not have social licence to extract gas onshore. I do not want my farm, home and town in Harvey being turned into an industrial park.

We purchased our farm in Harvey for the lifestyle and clean living, we have our apiary here because the South West of WA is a very unique place on the planet where the bees don't have the pests and disease like everywhere else plus we have very special flora. Our South West is a treasure trove for our bees and bee keepers. The world needs to help the bees not take their healthy environment away from them.

We also produce beef that we sell to provide food for Australia, we free range our chickens, we drink our rain water and that's all we have to drink, there is no back up water coming from the city. My grand children play here. This is too serious to take chances with our agricultural lands, our air, human and animal health and our water.

We know from the studies and experience of people around the world that, not only do wells, pipes and other infrastructure leak, but the ground may also be leaking through cracks and fissures. Fugitive methane emissions are strong indicators of the presence of toxic gasses such as sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds. It is devastating for human health and the environment. We live on EP 416 and we are right on top of a fault line. Yet we still have the threat of industrial gas field on our farm and the farmland around us.

Communities living near gasfields in Queensland and the USA have reported serious health effects following the commencement of unconventional gas operations. These conditions include respiratory ailments, nose throat and eye irritations and neurological illnesses.

Water and chemical use and wastewater production from fracking places WA's vital water resources at risk from contamination and depletion. Our state is one of the driest places on earth and climate change is already leading to decreased rainfall in southern WA. Our land and environment are under growing pressure from a lack of fresh water. We cannot afford to put our precious groundwater at risk for a short term and unnecessary onshore gas industry.

Research into the economic and social impacts of the unconventional gas industry in Queensland has shown that the industry has led to a reduction in community well-being and social cohesion. It also caused a deterioration in local skills and infrastructure; few additional local job opportunities; and limited economic benefit to the wider economy.

Landholders and Traditional Owners don't have the right to refuse access to oil and gas companies in WA. This creates stress and leaves individuals and communities worried about their financial security and their ability to farm their land. The cards are stacked unfairly in favour of the gas industry and human rights are being ignored for a resource that is no longer strategically vital as it can be replaced by renewable forms of energy generation.

All the experience around the world shows that people and gasfields should not mix.

I urge the inquiry to make a recommendation to permanently ban Onshore gas mining in Western Australia.

Kind regards