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Subject: Submission to Fracking inquiry panel
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 11:03:12 PM

Dear panel members of the Independent Scientific Inquiry

I am writing to express my opposition to unconventional gas mining and fracking in WA.

I am a concerned Australian Citizen who has been living in WA since arriving with my parents in 1962.

With a 35 year background in social work, including long periods of working in the Kimberley I have some experience of community welfare.

My biggest concern is that there is a real threat from the reserves of contaminated water. Water and chemical use and wastewater production from fracking will put the state's water resources at risk, both from contamination and given our compromised water resources there is likely to be possible depletion of our groundwater. As WA operators do not pay for water from underground there is in addition no responsibility for longer term environment care.

A related concern is that where there is damage to environment there would be an adverse effect on individuals in their relationship to environment. There needs to be consideration of 'place attachment'. Land owners, including traditional indigenous owners become compromised with the promise of financial gain when there is no longer term security in terms of health - both to individuals and community. Instead, landowners could be offered solar energy - forever - with no risk of harm. With the Kimberley being one area currently targeted for exploration and pilot production I understand there could be more than 40,000 gas wells. Where there is massive alteration of environment there is often a reduction in community well-being and social cohesion. .

Another concern is the public health risk to the immediate and wider community from large scale, industrial development and practice of the unconventional gas extraction method. There is a mass of references including Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking concernedhealthny.org/compendium/. Also please take note of all the studies from scientists and all the decades of research conducted into this industry and its practices.

Instead of supporting unnecessary unconventional gas mining and fracking - which is not strategically viable - I would like our Government to explore and invest in a wide range of sustainable energy alternatives: wind, solar, hydro etc so we can transition effectively to a sustainable, renewable future. WA cannot meet our Paris agreement of reduced greenhouse gas emissions with increasing emissions of methane from fracking.

Our Government needs to takes preventative action. Due to the very nature of the industry and the chemicals involved which are released both above and below ground, the fracking process cannot be safely regulated. These risks can not be minimised or mitigated. The risk levels are too high, the uncertainty of hazards too great. Therefore I would like our State Government to legislate to ban fracking in

WA.

Yours Respectfully,
Karen Girardin