

**From:** Jack Goodacre  
**To:** [info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au)  
**Cc:** [Jack Goodacre](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - Hydraulic Fracturing  
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Attn: Dr Tom Hatton

Dear Dr Hatton and Panel

I write in support of hydraulic fracturing as a safe and effective method of increasing production of fluid from some subsurface zones. Typically, this would be to increase production of oil and gas from reservoirs, but it could be to increase water production or to improve the ability to inject or dispose of fluids.

Subject to the normal provisos of choosing the appropriate zone or zones to fracture, withdrawal or injection to these zones is merely enhanced by the fracturing. Absent the use of proppant (typically sand) to hold fractures open, the fractures close when the pressure is released.

Due care needs to be used in the selection and design of frac zones - central to this is the need to ensure the fractures are contained within the zone of interest. So long as basic controls are used, there is no reason to conclude that a well-designed frac job would do anything other than what it is planned to do.

Many hundreds of fracture stimulations have been performed of West Australian and many, many more world-wide. Locally the impact is not discernible, nor is it in SW Queensland or NE South Australia – both areas that have been extensively fraced over time.

Opponents of fraccing rightly raise concerns about ground water contamination, use of chemicals and locking up good farming land. All valid concerns. Industry works to ensure that fractures are contained within the frac zone to minimise the potential impact on underground water sources, uses chemicals that are effective and safe, and that the surface area used by frac equipment has a small foot print. Regulators check and confirm compliance, or require operators to take corrective action.

Over decades fracture technology has improved lives. Jobs have been created, produced resources that would have otherwise been unproducible and, more recently, led to booms in tight gas production that reduce greenhouse gas production by substituting gas for coal in energy and power production.

Yours sincerely  
Jack Goodacre

  
