

D & S Jackson

16 March 2018

The Chair, Dr Tom Hatton
WA Independent Scientific Panel
Inquiry into Hydraulic Stimulation
in Western Australia 2017-2018

Dear Sir,

Gas Fracking in the Mid West

We are writing to you to express our deep concerns that, if allowed, Hydraulic Fracking of tight gas will have a very detrimental effect on our immediate environment and life style.

We live on 60 hectares in the Hill River area of the Mid West which is about 30 kms due east of Jurien Bay. We run 150 head of sheep, have aquaculture ponds and grow a lot of our own vegies.

When we bought the property which was well over thirty years ago, one of the main reasons for the purchase was the availability of a good and reliable underground water supply which also supported large stands of Flood Gums and other big timber making it a very attractive place in which to live.

Our main water supply is a bore which supplies all our needs for house, stock and garden. We have no need for a rain water tank because the bore water is so good.

We are concerned that if fracking for tight gas is allowed in the area, that there is a very real threat that our precious clean water supply could be polluted.

There is no real way of knowing from how far, or from where, our water travels before we use it.

There are so many examples both in the USA (eg Professor Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University 2016 video Well Failure) and also from our Eastern States where bore casing failure and chemical spills have contaminated water supplies vital to agriculture and rural life.

In addition, there are many other issues such as air, noise and visual pollution caused by the installation and operation of wells.

Our region is rapidly becoming more promoted for tourism and for horticulture. The latter having increased dramatically over the past few years to include potatoes, citrus and olives which all sit among the established grain and stock farms. All of these rely on clean underground water. It seems insane to contemplate Tight Gas Fracking in the same area.

Fossil fuels are already looking to be outdated in the not too distant future and in our area alone we already have a big wind farm with another proposed to open along with a solar PV farm. Why risk our water supply which is irreplaceable for perhaps ten or fifteen years of gas extraction?

Before too long, given the ever increasing world population, clean water will be the new oil/gas. It will be in short supply and no doubt in time, somewhere in the world, wars will be fought over it because human life cannot exist without it.

You can legislate to **reduce** risk but you **cannot** legislate to **eliminate** risk.

We respectfully request that given all the well known and documented problems associated with Tight Gas Fracking that the panel recommends a total ban on this risk ridden method of gas production.

Yours faithfully,

David & Sheila Jackson.

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