

## Submission to:

### WA Scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracture Stimulation in WA

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#### 1. PERSONAL DETAILS AND CONCERNS ABOUT UNCONVENTIONAL GAS

- Concerned community member from South West WA
- Native wildlife and forest depend on surface and ground water
- Concerned that unconventional fracking will reduce amount of water and contaminate it.
- I live in and grew up in Donnybrook WA and have worked in the mining industry as a Geological assistant for approximately 5 years. This involved taking samples from drill rigs setting out drill pads and doing safety audits. These drill rigs, R.C (Reverse Circulation) and diamond core are comparative small compared to the huge oil and gas ones but still required sumps for waste water which would often overflow spilling chemicals onto the surface.
- Donnybrook is situated on the end of the Darling Range and has an undulating hilly countryside. It is also developed on the Preston River and is fed by lots of streams, gullies and water runoff from the hills. If there was to be drill holes put in for unconventional gas it would pose a significant risk of contaminated water entering water ways. In a news alert from the European Commission (reference 1)
- Active wells were situated on average just 300m from streams and rivers, with several hundred wells less than 100m away from stream channels.
- Donnybrooks water supply is from bores and so is my parent's farm in Capel 30 km's down the road. My parents bore is only 9 metres down but sits on top of the Yarragadee Aquifer which is 200 to 400 meters down and the Water Corporation of Western Australia currently extracts about 45 gigalitres per year from the aquifer.
- On a fact sheet on Frack Free WA site (reference 2)
- Myth: "There's no real risk of wells leaking..."
- The WA Government and the unconventional gas industry claim that there is a minimal risk of wells leaking and causing groundwater contamination because well casings are thick and made of concrete and steel. However, 'world's best practice' well construction just isn't enough to stop wells leaking. 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

#### Summary of key points

- Donnybrooks country side is hilly and leaking untreated water poses a risk to enter water ways
- Donnybrooks water supply comes from bores and leaking wells could contaminate water supply
- Myth: " There's no real risk of wells leaking" 6% of wells leak immediately

#### Conclusion and recommendations

- Need to consider South west WE ARE RELAVENT
- I recommend that the Government ban unconventional gas in all areas of Western Australia as the scientific evidence is clear: Unconventional gas mining cannot be undertaken safely, it is a grave risk to people animals and forest.

Ref 1 Fracking: a serious concern for surface water as well as groundwater

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/275na3\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/275na3_en.pdf)

Ref 2 Frack Free WA site Gas Industry Mythbuster.

[http://www.frackfreewa.org.au/industry\\_mythbuster](http://www.frackfreewa.org.au/industry_mythbuster)