

I have great concerns for the future of Perth & WA because of the associated risks from the unconventional gas mining industry.

I appreciate WA is mineral rich state & our economy is reliant on these minerals, but we are fresh water poor. Freshwater is the basis for life, for drinking and watering our food industries. Water Corp say we need to conserve our water, yet the unconventional gas extraction method using fracking uses millions of litres of water per frack, with each well being fracked multiple times and the high density of wells in each gasfield all equates to a massive reduction of available water. The water that is reclaimed from the fracked well is toxic due to the 500 tons of chemicals, & can be radioactive. This water can not be cleaned to be reused but has to be stored, this stored waste water will then be liable to enter the water courses from flooding, as recent storms have proved both with the Swan River flooding in January 2017, in Broome in January 2018, & with every cyclone, the water can not be stored safely. What will be the result when this toxic water enters the aquifers that we rely on for watering our crops, livestock, & mines to supply water to their camps, no food & no mining?

Unconventional gas mining is not a tried & tested method. Although fracking has been done for decades, the horizontal drilling is relatively new, & has been done in the US with grave results for farmers. The increase in earthquakes is now directly linked with fracking, as causing explosions underground will cause settlement to spread up to the surface. The rivers are drying up as the surface water follows down the natural faults that have been exploded open. These natural fault lines also allow the gas up so setting rivers on fire, bores to be acidic & homes blow up. The seismic activity will also stop production in the underground mines for safety of the miners.

6.5% of well casings leak when first set up, every leak runs the risk of polluting the aquifers, with only 5 aquifers in WA isn't the risk of polluting Perth's water unacceptable? There are 140,000 wells planned in the Kimberley, this means initially 9,100 wells will leak, what is an acceptable number? How toxic is too toxic for you to drink? The aquifers are linked together, is it possible to unpollute an aquifer?

The gas industry is in opposition to the tourism industry, tourists will not want to visit our tourism centres when there are hundreds of thousands of wells, pipelines, compressor stations, & access roads scarring the natural beauty & polluting the air. The planned gasfields have a well every 800m, in allowing unconventional gas exploration you will allow the destruction of our environment as it has happened in the Darling Downs. The wells have flare stacks that have 5m long flames, how can this be acceptable in remote bush at the height of summer when the fire risk is so catastrophic?

The gas industry claims it will create jobs, these have always been over exaggerated and will not be from the local towns. This takes jobs away from the tourism & agriculture industries that employ local people and keeps rural towns alive.

We can not have both industries, gas will last 10 years before renewables take over, but the landscape will be forever scarred, tourism can last forever.

Please learn from the US, & the Eastern States who have made the mistake of allowing this industry to destroy the land, air & water. The unconventional gas industry is high risk to our water & climate, they need to improve their practice to be safer for all. Communities do not want this risk, & the environment will not recover from it. As a risk assessment, that 20% of wells will leak in 10 years means there is a high

probability, and then add the consequences of a bush fire, toxic aquifer, or seismic activity can all be catastrophic. This can not be mitigated.

Please let WA lead the way in choosing life, rather than short term greed that poisons us all. Please ban fracking in the unconventional gas industry.