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Subject: Submission to the WA Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in WA 2017-2018
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To whom it may concern

We place a high value on the protection of our state's natural environment and cultural heritage. Beyond individual plants, animals and places, this extends to our health, water, food, air, biodiversity, climate, our rural and natural landscapes, and our living Aboriginal culture and connection to country.

We do not believe that gas fracking can be done anywhere in WA without unacceptable impacts on these values.

There are numerous studies that now provide ample evidence of the adverse effects of fracking. Referenced below are 55 individual articles providing evidence of adverse health effects alone.

Pollution of air and water, impacts on biodiversity, industrialisation of landscapes, and increased climate change are all inevitable and irreversible consequences of an unconventional gas industry. Many of these impacts cannot be avoided or managed through regulation.

The development of new fossil fuels including gas will increase carbon pollution and is inconsistent with international agreements on climate change. Our state has plentiful renewable energy resources and more fossil fuels are not needed.

Therefore, we call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA, and to recommend the development of renewable energy resources to meet the state's energy needs.

Yours faithfully

Steve and Kim Lewis

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