

Brittany McKay



May 17, 2018

Submission: scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracture stimulation in Western Australia 2017.

I am a concerned community member who's concern lies with the pollution of the groundwater and air by the chemicals used in the process of unconventional gas drilling.

I am concerned that our water, which is relied upon heavily for agriculture, horticulture, and livestock, will be contaminated by unsafe practices involved with fracking. I understand the industry claims that the chemicals used are just as safe as our household cleaning products. These products are not meant for ingestion so I do not understand why they are considered safe if groundwater is contaminated with similar chemicals. Water is our most precious resource on earth, more precious than oil or gas, or gold or iron ore., and definitely more precious than the all mighty dollar. For when our water is gone it is gone. I am not a scientist but I am a human being who is shocked at the lengths a corporation will go to, jeopardising this precious resource . The reasons I am so concerned are because of the occurrences in the USA and Queensland, Australia , where people have had their ground water contaminated with elements such as chloride, sulphate, nitrate, sodium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese and methane ( 1.1).As well as naturally occurring but dangerous organic compounds, radioactive material, and heavy metals(1.2) The health effects range from coughing, rashes, nosebleeds, chest tightness, muscle spasms, severe fatigue, paraesthesia and neurotoxicity ( 1.3). These are only the physical effects. The mental and emotional effects take par, as farmers and property owners run out of decent water for their livestock and crops ( let alone themselves and family), are unable to even sell their farms or property and remove themselves from the situation, unable to provide for their families, all while fighting for the right for clean water and air and very likely have developed mental illness such as depression along the way, from the nightmare that has become their life. Please, for our water, the air we breathe, our land and our livelihood, I would like to see a permanent ban on fracking in WA. Our future generations will not survive and thrive without the basic and essential necessity of clean water and air.

Sincerely,

Brittany McKay,

#### References

- 1.1 Alawattegama *et al* ( 2015) *ibid*
- 1.2 Haswell qld univ technology: submission to NT inquiry April 2017
- 1.3 Evaluation of some potential chemical exposure risks during flowback operations in unconventional oil and gas extraction: preliminary results. *Journal of occupational and*

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1.4 Symptomology of a gas field. An independent health survey in the Tara rural residential estates and environs. McCarron (2013). Geralynmcc@inet.net.au