

Friday 2nd March 2018

To whom it may concern,

RE WA SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE STIMULATION IN WA 2018

I have lived in Broome WA for the past 6 years and am increasingly concerned by the growing use of hydraulic fracture stimulation in the region and, as such, am now making this submission.

I appreciate the government making the effort to hold an inquiry into the fracking process and I hope that this will result in a better understanding of the impacts of this industry on people in remote Kimberley communities, and across the state.

I have three main concerns which are worth mentioning here:

1. The disempowerment to Aboriginal people caused by requests to frack under the Mining and Petroleum Act. In Broome the traditional Yawuru owners voted overwhelmingly to say no to fracking on their traditionally own and occupied lands. This request was ignored by the fracking company and the government. This is a terrible situation which sees Aboriginal people lose the Native Title rights which they have fought so hard to have recognised within the state of WA. It was a promise of the Labour government to give traditional owners veto rights in relation to this process if elected. I hope that this is one of the outcomes of this inquiry.

2. The labour government also promised to ban fracking in the south west of WA due to its unique environment, biodiversity and valuable tourism and agriculture industries. I would argue that these reasons are just as, if not more, significant in the Kimberley region and that there can be no reason to ban the process due to environmental concerns in one region, and not others. If the government is so worried about the environmental impacts of fracking to ban it in the South West, the process should be banned throughout the state, or at least in all similarly high conservation value areas, such as the Kimberley.

3. The Kimberley is a wild and unpredictable environment. In this wet season we have seen containment infrastructure built by fracking company Buru, overflow in heavy rains. This is just one example which shows the environmental and social negligence of these companies, processes, and also just how inappropriate and unacceptable this type of activity is in the largely pristine region.

I hope that these points will be taken into consideration when considering the impacts of this unwelcome and dangerous process within WA.

Yours sincerely

Tessa Mossop

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