

SUBMISSION TO:

WA scientific inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in WA

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1) PERSONAL DETAILS:

Having worked in the Mining Industry and the offshore conventional gas industry for over 20 years, I am very familiar with the effects of Mining in Australia. I have read and viewed videos on the subject of Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation and I feel I am well informed to make a scientific assessment on Fracking.

Unconventional Gas Industry is relatively new in Australia. I have not had practical experience in the industry. However having experience in the mining and offshore gas industry more that makes up for this.

I am motivated to make this submission because my experience has shown me that the Mining Industry of any kind, unless rigidly controlled and assessed by an independent and non-bias 3rd party, inevitably leads to the destruction of:

- 1) The environment
- 2) Agricultural land
- 3) No obligation or commitment, by companies, to rehabilitate spent mines (or by the government to enforce a commitment to rehabilitate such mines).
- 4) Adequate, reasonable and fair Compensation, for landowners before and after commencement of mining, for financial, social and health matters.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- 1) Water, Air and pollution.
- 2) Health and Social consequences.
- 3) Unusable valuable agricultural land during and after fracking.
- 4) None commitment by the companies or government to compulsorily regularly monitor fracked sites
- 5) Negotiations between fracking companies and landowners for fair and equitable compensation for existing and spent sites.

Water and Air pollution.

There have been numerous studies to show that these vital components of our very existence, do have an unprecedented effect on our environment and wellbeing.

If we ignore these you might as well say goodbye to mankind.

Steven Hawkins says the future of our world in years to come needs a drastic turnaround if we are continue to exist.

WATER AND CLEAN AIR:

We all know there would be no life on earth without it.

References:

www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/fracking-compendium-5-water-excerpt.pdf.

A fractured country, an unconventional invasion. (www.lockthegate.org.au/our_films)

Personal stories from:

- Brian Monk, Landowner, Kogan Darling Downs Qld
- Ruth Armstrong, Mixed cropping farmer Cecil Plains, Darling downs Qld
- Mabel Quakawoot, Bailai Elder Gladstone, North Qld
- Graham Gibson, Vigneron, Broke, Hunter Valley, NSW
- Joe Hill, Angus Cattle Breeder, Miles, Darling Downs, Qld
- Lee McNicholl, Beef producer, Dulacca, South West Qld
- Ian Moore, Farmer, Jerry's Plains, Hunter Valley NSW
- Scott Boyd, Farmer, Chinchilla, Qld
- Marion Palmer, Landowner, Tara, Darling Downs, Qld
- Debbi Orr, Landowner Tara, Darling Downs, Qld
- Geoff and Barbara Brown, Vigneron, Hunter Valley, NSW
- David Quince, Farmer and gracier, Tamber Springs, Liverpool Plains, NSW
- Don Durrant, Farmer, Bundella, North West, NSW
- Lesley MacQueen, Dairy Farmer, Lynchs Creek, Northern NSW
- Ben Marrjarr, Traditional Owner, Arnhem Land, NT
- Megan Kuhn, Farmer, Bundella North West NSW
- Wal Buchman, Farmer, Lynchs Creek, Northern NSW
- Paul Hobbs, Landowner, Lynchs Creek Northern, NSW

These are but a few examples of the devastation the industry courses, with little or no compensation given to the people who are left to carry on their daily lives amounts the CSG fields.

CONTAMINATED WATER, AIR AND THE VISUAL POLLUTION THIS INDUSTRY CAUSES IS NOTHING SHORT OF CRIMINAL.

UNUSABLE VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND DURING AND AFTER FRACKING SITES

REFER TO (Page 2) **WATER AND CLEAN AIR**

There are numerous references by the science fraternity, independent organisations, the general public and individuals on the subject of unusable agricultural land, during and after fracking sites.

Bank refuses to accept property as security because of CSG.

(www.theguardian.com/2011/sep/30/commonwealth-bank-coal-seam-gas-makes-property-unacceptable-as-loan-security.)

Casey, 2015, CSG too risky for insurers.

www.farmonline.com.au/story/3365648/csg-too-risky-for-insurers/

NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, 2014. Need tougher insurance regime by CSG companies.

(www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/latest-news/chief-scientist-and-engineer-calls-for-tougher-insurance-regime-for-csg-industry.)

These are but a few cases of the on flowing consequences, of the CSG industry which unquestionably, should not be allowed to develop or expand.

HARMFUL BTEX CHEMICALS USED IN FRACKING

Ethylbenzene	Highly inflammable, eye and throat irritations, high exposure can result in vertigo and dizziness
Benzene	Long term effects of exposure is in the blood, it causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can lead to Anaemia
Toluene	Effects in animals are similar to those in humans. Main effect is on the brain and nervous system(www.atsdr.cdc.gov)
Xylene	Eye contact can cause redness, pain, swelling tearing and hazy vision. Skin absorption the same as eyes along with itchy dryness.

80 TO 300 TONS OF THESE CHEMICALS ARE USED IN A FRACKING SITE. MOST OF WHICH IS EITHER LEFT IN THE GROUND WITH NO NONE CONSEQUENCES FOR EVER OR BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE TO POLLUTE LAND OR WATER.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

There are numerous videos, personal stories, in Australia, United States and other parts of the world, how fracking has had an indelible impact on people's personal lives, family lives, businesses, social wellbeing, mental health and the irreparable damage to the environment.

Examples: of past mistakes by big business and government of the day, on the impact of not fully investigating the long term (emphases on LONG TERM) consequences of their actions, for what were perceived to be flawless on the time. But we are still paying the price today.

INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCED FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL STILL PAYING THE PRICE FOR.				
<u>Animal</u>	<u>Introduced</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>Threat Level</u>
Feral Pig	1788	Domestic Livestock	13-23 Million	High
Feral Cats	1838	Pets	6 Million	High to Extreme
Feral Goats	1788	Domestic Livestock	3 Million	High
Red Fox	1855	Recreational Hunting	7.2 Million	Extreme
Cane Toad	1935	Biological control of the native cane beetle	200 Million	Extreme Catastrophic destruction of our native wild life.

We cannot afford to be complacent, with the CSG industry, purely for limited economic gain. When it can be seen from the above chart of the devastating effects of not having the will to make decisions that will affect all of us and our future generations to come.

We have enough gas by extracting in through conventional gas extraction methods without the need for CSG.

There really is no need for this inquiry, as all of the past and present evidence on this type of industry is overwhelming and negative.