

From: Lyn Proud
To: info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au; minister.dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au; minister.mactiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au; minister.mcgurk@dpc.wa.gov.au; minister.johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au; mooreelectorate@mp.wa.gov.au; doust.southmetro@mp.wa.gov.au; sue.ellery@mp.wa.gov.au
Subject: Submission to Fracking Inquiry
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This submission is from L. Proud of Hamilton Hill WA, retiree aged 72.

I have children, grandchildren and other family in the farming zones of the Mid West. They derive their income and raise their children in the area of inquiry. I also have family who work in mining.

The aim of this submission is to alert the panel to some topics to consider in making their final recommendations.

The Mid West zone hosts a wide variety of industries both old and new. From grain farming to horticulture to tree and native vegetation rehabilitation to various land based processing plants covering the meat and fishing and poultry and fruit and vegetable industries. All these industries provide long term employment, stable environment , an export cash flow and an internal cash flow for western Australia. The future relies on a stable topsoil with a clean water table and stable subsoil. Fracking puts this land stability into complete ruin.

With Fracking for unconventional shale and tight gas, water is contaminated both below and above ground with the addition of chemicals. Holding ponds above ground have to eventually be cleared (where?) and below ground , non salvaged and contaminated water remains. Productive land is gradually usurped to construction of roads and processing buildings. Gas emissions and other fumes gradually escape and add to the local atmosphere creating health hazards. Ref. The Compendium of Concerned Health Professionals edition 5 (13 March 2018). Concernedhealthy.org/compendium/

The current Petroleum legislation is biased against protection of land already producing for agriculture and horticulture and associated industries at a premium financial return and associated spin off services like transport, in Western Australia.

We enough proven offshore reserves + current production of offshore LNG gas. Why would we risk our land and communities when we're still exporting most of that offshore gas? We have plenty of gas for Western Australian industry and households. The east coast also has enough gas, especially if they stop exporting. It's also beyond time to switch to renewable energy like solar and wind.

I urge you to recommend banning of onshore unconventional AND conventional gas exploration and production because of the above arguments. There is no benefit when the land is ruined.

For you consideration.
L. Proud, Hamilton Hill