

Hi,

I am looking forward to hearing the results of the scientific enquiry into fracking, however I don't believe this is a science management issue. Science will underpin our understanding of the risks of fracking. However it is inevitable, that in practise geology and the science will not be perfect. On a long enough timeline fracking will cause damage to our aquifers. Improvements to technology will reduce the risks, but not eliminate them. We all think we're good drivers, but some of us crash. Perhaps its not our fault or perhaps we're tired. Car safety technology is always improving but we still crash.

Public drinking water source areas are managed in land use planning processes with risk based policies. The Water Corporation and the government and the people accept the risks of Priority 2 and Priority 3 areas. Priority 1 source areas are managed to avoid and exclude potential risks. PDWSAs are mapped clearly across the state. Proprietors within these areas should know and have to opportunity to find out what development is acceptable and those unsupported by decision making and advisory agencies.

Risk based policy would be a useful tool to manage fracking.

Further, adopting a strategic approach to identifying those risks across the state, similar to the process undertaken to produce the Perth and Peel green growth plan, would clarify to the Public areas fracking is consider suitable by the government.

Kind regards

Patrick Ridley