

As a member of the general public and having a reasonable background of knowledge in the area under consideration (central west coast) as to license of the gas industry in the event of lifting the moratorium on gas development, I am grateful for the invitation to submit a submission on the terms of reference to be considered by the panel of inquiry.

My background has been of raw experience over a period of sixty seven years in the Jurien Bay and Eneabba areas that are contained within the potential gas fields. My scientific learning is restricted to year ten at high school only . But on the other hand I am a concerned member of the public having experience in agriculture (farming), mineral sands operations (including attapulgitite), and fishing industries. All of which have environmental impact and consequently temper my respect for the need to take due consideration of our living environment.

I took an active part in community forums held with a gas company in Leeman and Greenhead over the concern of a gas well being developed not far from an existing water supply bore that served each town . The gas company involved was seemingly quite honest and open and fully explained their operations and potential possibility of well failures which gave good knowledge to the community. The well was decommissioned on the grounds of low production and community concerns.

In respect to well integrity I feel that this area, because of its geology, presents a greater risk of gas leakage to the atmosphere than perhaps other areas. The reason I say this is from the experience of a local towns person in Jurien Bay who had oil migrating into his household bore which had a depth of a mere four metres. To confirm that the substance was oil it was analysed and confirmed as oil and its potential source was the Rankin fault line . Which indicates that there is fissures already occurring in the bedrock giving a high risk to leakage with fracking. Other fault lines occur here . A very substantial and important water aquifer, the yarragadee , lies within this area and has the potential to hold security of supply for the greater Perth area . Even the slightest risk to this supply should rule out oil and gas exploitation near it .There is no absolute guarantee that well infrastructure will endure indefinitely, and should failure occur the responsibility of resurrection would not fall to the gas company but be to the government of the day .

Should the moratorium be lifted, gas measurements should be conducted to establish a base measurement before gas development and this should be regularly monitored at all wellheads so that any gas leaks that occur, remedial measures are taken by gas companies.

Governments of the day have the propensity to over spend and therefore lean towards any source of income no matter what the cost to the environment, so that it is with concern that I trust that the advisory panel is totally independent and thoroughly exhaustive in their deliberations.

Ron Snook .