

From: Alison Southern
To: info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au
Cc: Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au; Josie.Farrer@mp.wa.gov.au; wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au
Subject: Submission to WA Fracking Inquiry
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I wish to go on record as asking the Inquiry, and the WA government, for a ban on fracking of all kinds in Western Australia.

I was born in Perth in 1951 and have lived the past 35 years in the Kimberley region, in Broome and in Wyndham. I first came here after spending several years in Europe and realizing my need to live close to wilderness. The Kimberley is for me the embodiment of wilderness. For the past 25 years I have built a small business (Hidden Valley Handcrafts) based on expressing love for the local Kimberley environment. A small team create and sell products (natural soaps, skin care, gifts, candles etc.) to both locals and tourists. Fracking in the Kimberley will severely impact my business as it is likely to affect both tourism and the quality of air, water and the aesthetic values of this region. It will ruin "wilderness" and eco-tourism based on it. It will spoil my country and impact my livelihood.

First may I state that I am upset about the narrowness of the terms of this inquiry. The narrowness shows small vision, benefits the mining industry, and stops ordinary people from thinking they can have a say without doing a lot of research. This is unfair and small minded.

I am extremely concerned that fracking may destroy the Kimberley at the eleventh hour. Here we stand at the beginning of the end of fossil fuel energy and the beginning of an era of cheap or free renewable power. Australia is so very behind the rest of the world in this, yet we must have the best sources of clean energy possible with our sun, wind and tides. The Kimberley has survived so gorgeously intact to date because of its isolation and freedom from heavy industry. To ruin it for all time just at the cusp of real energy change is absurd and completely irresponsible. The Kimberley is one of the very few surviving areas of relatively pristine unique and amazing wilderness environments in the developed world, What enlightened government would risk ruining this?

I do not believe the evidence so far indicates that fracking can be adequately regulated. This view is backed up in the 900 papers in the Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Papers Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (<http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/fracking-compendium-4.pdf>).

The scale of impact and damage is way larger and worse than previously thought. Fracking expert & Professor of Engineering at Cornell University Dr Tony Ingraffea said recently in Perth (March 15, 2018 at UWA, via FrackFreeWA) that the WA Fracking Inquiry's background and issues papers are around 10 years out of date. He warned that fracking is bigger and more intense than anyone can imagine. The aerial views I have seen of just Buru's seismic line clearing in preparation for fracking, without permission of course, near Lake Eda 70 kms from Broome show just the beginning of the monstrous industrial scale ruin of this environment.

I am concerned about maintaining the quality of our water, which is from under ground. So much evidence points to contamination and leaking wells. I am concerned about the huge amounts of both water and sand required for shale gas fracking. And I am concerned about air pollution from methane and release of toxic chemicals. The other thing that is grossly unfair is the right given to mining

companies to explore and use land for mining without permission from traditional or other owners or leaseholders.

Thank you to the current McGowan government for creating the moratorium on fracking in WA, and a ban in certain sensitive areas. The Kimberley is certainly such a sensitive area, but I would urge a state wide ban. History will applaud such a move in this critical time of energy and climate change. I love my state and want it preserved from fracking for all time.

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Alison Southern

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