

From: carly stone
To: info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au
Subject: Submission- WA Fracking Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 18 March 2018 10:58:21 PM

Dear Inquiry Panel,

I am a mother of 2 young children living on a gas exploration map in WA. I strongly object to further development of onshore gas in our state.

My concerns along with supporting evidence are listed as follows:

- Welfare of threatened and endangered species in WA, many of which face habitat loss through clearing of land for gas infrastructure.

(Department of Parks and Wildlife- Government Gazette, January 2018):

https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/Listings/fauna_notice.pdf

- Further spreading of phytophthora dieback in WA, of which 1 million hectares is already infected. Further infection may happen through work boots, vehicles and heavy machinery.

(Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions- Phytophthora Dieback):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/pests-diseases/phytophthora-dieback>

- Contamination of air, soil and water through flaring, venting, leakage and well casing failure.

(National Toxics Network Australia-

Toxic Chemicals in the Exploration and Production of Gas from Unconventional Resources):

http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/UCgas_report-April-2013.pdf

- Physical health impacts to humans, native animals, farm animals and domestic pets through air contamination.

(Health concerns associated with unconventional gas mining in rural Australia- University of NSW):

<https://www.rrh.org.au/journal/download/pdf/3825/>

(Health impacts of unconventional gas on Australian livestock- media quotes from the Bender family farm):

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/1000-pigs-dead-due-to-gas-mining-pollution-says-submission-to-senate-inquiry-20160407-go0mu2.html>

(Physicians for Social Responsibility: Health Risks of Hydraulic Fracturing- Harm on the farm):

<http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/fracking-harm-on-the-farm.pdf>

- Mental health impacts on landowners through bullying and aggressive tactics used by gas companies to gain land access in Australia:

(Media quotes from affected cattle farmer Kane Booth, Chinchilla QLD):

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-02/qld-farmer-and-csg-company-in-battle/8584606>

(Media quotes from affected Bender family, QLD):

<http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/3434983/bender-family-statement/>

- Negative impacts on existing industries such as agriculture, viticulture and tourism.

(Australian Wine Industry submission-

Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Mining 2016):

<https://www.wfa.org.au/assets/submissions/Wine-Industry-Submission-Fracking-inquiry-11-March-2016.pdf>

(Australian Dairy Council Industry submission- Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Mining, 2016):

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=637492ba-ebbb-4e15-b436-03fd22609d0c&subId=410716>

- Excessive carbon pollution in WA breaking Paris Climate Agreement levels:

(Climate Analytics: Western Australia's Gas Gamble- Implications of exploiting the Canning Basin and other unconventional gas resources for achieving climate targets, March 2018):

<http://climateanalytics.org/files/climateanalytics-report-westernaustraliassgasmble-2018.pdf>

• I wish to also raise the issue of comparisons made between Australian and American industry standards. West Australian landowners concerns on the devastation caused by unconventional gas in the U.S is repeatedly dismissed by WA politicians. They are advised that these comparisons are irrelevant as the American industry is poorly regulated. Page 6 on the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum states that WA industry is based on American standards. No further U.S evidence should be dismissed unless or until the WA industry moves away from these American regulatory frameworks.

(Shale and Tight Gas in Western Australia: An overview of Western Australia's Guide to Regulatory Framework, August 2016):

"Of particular relevance to shale and tight gas is the American Petroleum Institute (API) standards program accredited by the American National Standards Institute. API publishes standards for the petroleum industry. These standards take into consideration the experience and new technology from the large number of wells that have been constructed and operate in the US. DMP refers to such standards when assessing operational plans."

http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Petroleum/Shale_and_Tight_Gas_overview.pdf

I wish to make it clear that I expect this enquiry to cover all shale and tight (unconventional) gas resources, due to the Department of Mines and Petroleum's statement in attachment 1:

("Natural gas trapped in shale and tight rock formations can only be recovered through hydraulic fracture stimulation, also known as "fracking"):

As a result of this inquiry I would like to see:

- A statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing
- Complete no-go zones for ALL forms of onshore gas in food growing regions, areas where significant aquifers are underlying and densely populated areas.
- An amendment to the Petroleum and Geothermal Resources Act 1967, to give landowners the legal right to veto.

I have no confidence nor suggestions for the panel on how this industry can be regulated safely, due to the several major gas industry accidents that have occurred in WA despite "World's best practice regulations".

I strongly urge the inquiry to make a recommendation to permanently ban unconventional gas mining across Western Australia.

The granting of the gas lease in my area has significantly changed my families' long term plans, and that of many families residing in the area. My family was due to make a tree change to a larger rural property further south but we are now too concerned the area will become a gasfield. As there are so many others locally in this situation, I believe it to be impacting on the real estate industry already. We are all extremely angry and frustrated about the gas exploration and will continue to strongly oppose it whether the gas is conventional or unconventional.

Regards

Carly Stone

Affected resident
& Member of
Gasfield Free Southwest Alliance



DMP's approach to natural gas from shale and tight rocks

Natural gas trapped in shale and tight rock formations can only be recovered through hydraulic fracture stimulation, also known as fracking.