

19/03/2018

Dear Fracking Inquiry Panel Members,

The Western Australian Student Environment Network (WASEN) would like to add our voice to the growing movement to ban fracking in WA, permanently. We are a group of hundreds of students from across Western Australia who are educated and active in the community, working towards the universal goal of survival through sustainable living. Fracking is posing a deadly threat to our future and the future of the planet. Having spent time at university, we are aware of how to research the facts. We are taught how to look for peer reviewed articles and papers. We know how to reference them, we know not to trust sources like Wikipedia and we know without a doubt that fracking and the gas it releases has growing numbers of scientific, peer reviewed, international research stacking up against it. We know that you as the panel should also be able to find the facts and use them to advise the government to put a permanent ban on fracking. There really isn't a reason to allow the fracking industry into WA. You know that, and we know that, which is why it is confusing that we are having to fight this at all.

Fracking is dangerous:

Hardly any of the chemicals used in fracking operations have been assessed by chemical safety regulator the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). And little is known about the 'synergistic' effects of these chemicals – how they behave when mixed with other natural and introduced chemicals in a high pressure, high temperature environment (4.5).

Wells leak which increases methane in the atmosphere:

An industry paper in Oilfield Review 2003 (5.5), published by Schlumberger, one of the world's largest companies specializing in fracking, admitted about 5 per cent of wells leak immediately, 50 per cent leak after 15 years, and 60 percent leak after 30 years.

In 2014, University of Waterloo researchers warned that natural gas seeping from 500,000 wellbores in Canada represented 'a threat to environment and public safety' due to groundwater contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, and explosion risks. Ten percent of all active and suspended gas wells in British Columbia now leak methane, and some hydraulically fractured shale gas wells in that province have become 'super methane emitters', spewing as much as 2,000 kilograms of methane a year (5.9, 5.10).

This is very bad news for global warming and the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We should be banning all fracking from this day one.

Fracking has been banned in many places internationally: Jurisdictions with some form of ban or moratorium in place include Scotland, Wales, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Wales, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg and France as well as the US States of New York, Maryland, Florida and Vermont and the Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec (1.6, 1.7, 1.20)

We as the next generation want you to listen to the science. We are living through a dangerous and scary time where fake news and alternative facts are the norm and where big industry is buying out our democratic governments. We need to be powerful in our actions to protect the planet for future generations. We have the power to stop this, but we need your help.

Yours truly,

The students of this generation, your children, your grandchildren

WASEN

#### **References:**

**1.6** LTG Submission to NT Inquiry April 2017 <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/?a=424035> See also: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8TKwEjU7sw&feature=youtu.be&list=PLHnnuC-2E7-S6sW2215knMKgH0NRPlcgv>

**1.7** Concerned Health Professionals of New York & Physicians for Social Responsibility. (2016, November 17). Compendium of scientific, medical, and media findings demonstrating risks and harms of fracking (unconventional gas and oil extraction) (4th ed.). <http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/> Available at: <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/fracking-compendium-4.pdf>

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**1.20** Places with fracking bans in place. <https://keptapwatersafe.org/global-bans-on-fracking/>

**4.5:** Lloyd-Smith, M.M & Senjen, Rye, Hydraulic Fracturing in Coal Seam Gas Mining: The Risks to Our Health, Communities, Environment & Climate, National Toxics Network Sept. 2011 [www.ntn.org.au](http://www.ntn.org.au)  
<http://ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/NTN-CSG-Report-Sep-2011.pdf>

**5.5:** An industry paper in Oilfield Review 2003, published by Schlumberger Brufatto, C. (2003). From mud to cement - Building gas wells. Oilfield Review, 15(3). Retrieved from [http://www.slb.com/resources/publications/industry\\_articles/oilfield\\_review/2003/or2003aut06\\_building\\_gas\\_wells.aspx](http://www.slb.com/resources/publications/industry_articles/oilfield_review/2003/or2003aut06_building_gas_wells.aspx)

Also referenced in the Fracking Compendium (re ref above 1.8) page 47

<http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/> Available at:  
<http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/frackingcompendium-4.pdf>

**5.9** Dusseault, M. B., Jackson, R. E., & MacDonal, D. (2014, May 22). Towards a road map for mitigating the rates and occurrences of long-term wellbore leakage. Geofirma. Retrieved from [http://geofirma.com/wpcontent/uploads/2015/05/lwp-final-report\\_compressed.pdf](http://geofirma.com/wpcontent/uploads/2015/05/lwp-final-report_compressed.pdf)

**5.10** Nikiforuk, A. (2014, June 5). Canada's 500,000 leaky energy wells: 'Threat to public' The Tyee. Retrieved from <http://www.thetyee.ca/News/2014/06/05/Canada-Leaky-Energy-Wells>