

From: Jarrad Thomas
To: [info](#)
Subject: WA Fracking Inquiry Submission
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 9:17:34 PM

Dear Inquiry Panel,

I strongly oppose fracking in Western Australia and urge the inquiry to recommend a complete ban on all unconventional gas mining.

I am a 26-year-old qualified draftsman who resides and has lived in the Moora area my whole life, I was born at the Moora Hospital and completed my schooling in Moora. As I grew up in this town I have many fond memories of the area, I also have an emotional connection to the area and want to protect it. I have been concerned about the impact that the fracking industry will have on the area. The area is rich with prime agriculture and horticulture industries, including sustainable farming practices producing organic beef, potatoes, citrus, olives and stone fruit just to name a few not to mention that our towns water supply is in the precinct that is earmarked for the "Dandaragan Deep" gas field. The town and all the above listed producers heavily rely and would not exist without our precious ground water supply. I heard about the industry more than 2 years ago and made it my mission to find out what it was, I heard both arguments on both sides of the fence, as I am a very visual and analytical person I analysed the arguments and could not believe that the regulations and processes (worlds best practise) that the industry gave me would safeguard against many of the issues that the fracking process creates. I heard the pro-fracking argument and the anti-fracking one and I have concluded that the industry poses huge risk to our land, water and air. The proximity to the town site means that the water the town drinks and the air we breath will be affected. These risks are far too complex for any regulation to fix and therefore I have been campaigning for a frack free WA ever since.

Unconventional gas mining and fracking is harmful to health. Communities living near gas fields in Queensland and the USA have reported serious health effects following the commencement of unconventional gas operations. These conditions include respiratory ailments, nose throat and eye irritations and neurological illnesses. I refer you to a recent Australian article based on a report by the *International Journal of Environmental Studies*;² "The paper, by Dr GERALYN McCARRON, found that acute hospital admissions for circulatory and respiratory diseases increased by up to 142% between 2007 and 2014. During the same period, pollutants reported by the CSG industry and known to cause cardiopulmonary illnesses rose by up to 6000%."¹ "Acute circulatory admissions increased 133% and acute respiratory admissions increased 142%," Dr McCarron says in the report. "CSG emissions increased substantially over the same period: nitrogen oxides (489% to 10,048 tonnes), carbon monoxide (800% to 6800 tonnes), PM10 (6000% to 1926 tonnes), volatile organic compounds (337% to 670 tonnes) and formaldehyde (12 kg to over 160 tonnes)."²

¹Article: https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/01/15/gas-industry-roll-linked-startling-rise-darling-downs-hospital-admissions/?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-150118

²Full Report: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00207233.2017.1413221>

Water and chemical use and wastewater production from fracking places WA's vital water resources at risk from contamination and depletion. Our state is one of the driest places on earth and climate change is already leading to decreased rainfall in southern WA. Our land and environment are under growing pressure from a lack of fresh water. We cannot afford to put our precious groundwater at risk for a short term and unnecessary fracking industry.

"Chemical additives make up less than 2% of the fracking fluid, this still translates to large quantities. A typical 15 million litre fracturing operation would use from 80 to 330 tons of chemicals. A well may be 'fracked' a number of times. An estimated 18,500 kilograms were used in a coal seam gas fracking in Australia with up to 40% not recovered"³

"Some chemicals can be found in home products, they may not be safe for humans and the environment if they make their way into water supplies (3.8). While some chemicals may be harmless when used appropriately in the home at low concentrations, it does not follow that they are safe in the amount and processes used in fracking,

and in various untested combinations with numerous other chemicals.”³

³ Paper: Information review on unconventional gas development for WA scientific inquiry by Dr. Bryan Whan

Landholders and Traditional Owners don't have the right to refuse access to oil and gas companies in WA. This creates stress and leaves individuals and communities worried about their financial security and their ability to farm their land. The cards are stacked unfairly in favour of the gas industry and human rights are being ignored for a resource that is no longer strategically vital as it can be replaced by renewable forms of energy generation. A recommendation for veto rights for traditional owners and landholders is a must if a ban is not recommended by the panel.

Research into the economic and social impacts of the unconventional gas industry in Queensland has shown that the industry has led to a reduction in community well-being and social cohesion. It also caused a deterioration in local skills and infrastructure; few additional local job opportunities; and limited economic benefit to the wider economy.

Unconventional gasfields in Queensland have seen reductions in farm productivity, efficiency, land values and credit availability to landholders.

Fracking leads to large deliberate and fugitive emissions of methane, adding to climate change.

Please also follow the links to these valuable articles;

1. Technical report from The World Health Organisation Europe, Review of evidence on health aspects of air pollution – REVIHAAP Project http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/193108/REVIHAAP-Final-technical-report-final-version.pdf?ua=1
2. BTEX Removal from Natural Gas Streams by Department of Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering The University of Oklahoma <http://www.ou.edu/class/che-design/a-design/projects-2009/BTEX%20Removal%20from%20Natural%20Gas.pdf>
3. Potential Health and Environmental Effects of Hydrofracking in the Williston Basin, Montana https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/hydrofracking_w.html
4. Is Fracking good for your health? by The Australia Institute <http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/TB%2028%20Is%20fracking%20good%20for%20your%20health.pdf>

If a state-wide ban is not recommended by the panel I would like to see a recommendation that the existing SW, Peel and Perth ban would be extended to cover our prime farming land of the Mid West at bare minimum.

Thankyou for taking the time to assist us in safeguarding our future against this problematic and invasive fossil fuel extraction. Without water there is no life.

Regards,

Jarrad Thomas
Resident and Small Business Owner



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