

From: Julie
To: info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au
Subject: WA FRACKING INQUIRY
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 6:11:22 PM

My name is Julie Thomas, 61 years of age. I have lived in Moora with my husband since 1990 and have raised two children, now adults.

My occupation is a dental nurse and I am very concerned about our environment and health and the impact that hydraulic fracturing will have on our community and in turn everyone.

Recently I have become a Shire Councillor.

My greatest concern is the mounting and overwhelming proof of the harm and devastation hydraulic fracturing has on our health and our environment.

When contamination of our vital water and permanent damage to our land, our soil and air occurs, there is no substitute. Together with hydraulic fracturing off-shore and on-shore, it is killing vital microbial activity in the soil and more recently the discovery of the death of plankton in the sea (Tasmania).

Nearby at Watheroo National Park, approximately 70 kilometres away from home in Moora, there are 6 wells that have been drilled, not all these are in production, but the footprint this will have on our land will become a grid of many wells, once production is underway. There is no comfort in this not happening in this location when our WA Government clearly does not care about the devastation, after production has ceased.

This needs to be regulated externally by independent bodies not associated with WA Government and/or Oil and Gas Mining Companies. Not internally as I have been informed by Latent Energy when it was in our district, now Whitebark. Who knows how many more companies and what impact each has in their conduct.

We need independent samples taken for independent testing, always varied to achieve honest results which have been acquired in an unbiased manner.

All tests and sampling results must be made available to the general public and be on a permanent record for future and general ongoing information, on top of what must already be carried out by the Oil and Gas Industries.

Benzene is a very dangerous/volatile compound which is used in chemicals and is known to be carcinogenic. It is a bi-product and discharges into the atmosphere thus effecting our environment in its entirety.

There is no guarantee of leakage prevention during hydraulic fracturing, as it is so far below the surface, genuine monitoring of well integrity, is short of impossible and is problematic for many years after production has ceased. In some cases, drilling is over 5,000 metres down, then there's the fact of horizontal drilling – another unpredictable situation. The whole process is incredibly risky and problematic, despite the 'sell' by Oil and Gas Companies.

Moora's town water is dependent upon groundwater solely.

If our water supply is contaminated our lives/health are most definitely under threat.

Our town will have no future prospects for a prosperous future in growth, especially the food bowl that is developing. I quote three thriving businesses Moora Citrus, Fox Farms (potato farm) and Dandaragan Beef, for example.

We have a 4 year old grandson and his future, let alone that of other people would be affected permanently.

The impact of hydraulic fracturing will alter nature, the environment and life, as we currently know it. This threat is real and immediate.

We all made and make personal choices which do not impact on others, unlike oil and gas mining.

We have such a delicate and fragile environment and the ecology of which certainly cannot be sustained if hydraulic fracturing is not stopped forthwith.

Please **STOP** this senseless mining and pursue renewable energies before it is definitely too late.

It is proven all over the world how useful these can be.

Money cannot buy back our environment and health in the long term.

We all need water daily to exist/survive.

Yours sincerely

Julie Thomas

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Ref. - Indiana Dept. Environmental management fact sheet.