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**To:** [info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Fracking Inquiry submission  
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To the Independent Scientific Panel On Fracking and whom it may concern ,

I am writing the West Australian Fracking Inquiry today to urge all members of this committee to deeply ask themselves a few important questions and to passionately convey my hope that you will recommend a permanent ban on fracking and the onshore gas industry.

With the amount of overwhelming evidence that has been collected about the onshore gas industry, in particular the hydraulic Fracturing of shale, tight and coal seam gas I find it hard to understand how you could recommend lifting the ban on this volatile industry to operate here in our lovely state.

The overwhelming evidence that has come in from Sth West Queensland and abroad in countries such as the United States, present horrifying realities that the onshore gas industry has left with those communities, their local water supply and environment.

Between 2009 and 2015, 685 Investigative papers have been written and published in peer-reviewed scientific journals about the onshore Gas industry and Hydraulic Fracturing. The statistics collated from these papers paint a frightening picture. Of the cases studied, 69% showed water contamination, 84% showed adverse health outcomes for local communities and 87% showed an impact on air quality. These are papers that have been reviewed by the scientific community!

State and Federal governments have said this is a safe industry if operated under a transparent and robust regulatory system. The regulations are not robust and legislation does not protect our water, public health or the environment. For example many of the chemicals used in fracking have never

been assessed for their long-term impacts on the environment and human health.

Our very own state government legislation is not equipped to create a robust and transparent framework to keep this industry in check because the shale and tight gas extraction process is currently exempt from needing DEC and EPA approvals. This also includes operation licenses in regards to pollution. The industry itself is regulated by the Dept of Mining and Petroleum and has one of the vaguest environmental conduct stipulations for this industry. It states 'As Low as Reasonably Practicable' (ALARP) as the guideline they must follow when considering their negative impacts on the environment. There are clearly some massive issues regarding conflict of interest within this industry and where it meets state legislation.

Furthermore, land holders, including farmers and indigenous custodians, have no right of veto on whether or not they can have an unconventional gas well/rig on their land. These land owners can not deny access. They only have the right to negotiate compensation. This is ludicrous as much as it is draconian in its approach.

These reasons above are exactly why the onshore gas and "Fracking" industry have no social license to operate anywhere within our state. Communities across the state are, in a vast majority, opposed to the onshore gas industry operating in their region, putting their water, environment and health at risk.

I would hope when considering the weight and importance of your recommendation to the state government that you all ask yourselves how you would feel if your drinking water was contaminated by this industry. How would you feel if one of your own family members had chronic headaches from breathing in the toxic air from living close to a fracking site. How would you feel if it was your land that was going to have a fracking well built on it against your will. These are

questions of utmost importance.

As you know this is not just an Environmental or Economic question or decision. This recommendation that you will pass onto to our state government has massive moral and ethical outcomes.

Therefore, I call on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry to recommend a permanent, legislated ban on fracking and unconventional gas activities across WA.

We have a massive future and potential for a new era of renewable energy and we should as a state and nation be doing all we can to encourage a progressive move in this direction.

yours sincerely,  
John Wiltshire-Butler