



Name: *C E & M E WINTON*



Attn: Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry  
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PERTH WA 6850

This is a submission to the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry.

I oppose unconventional gas mining and fracking in Western Australia.

*We have friends in the USA and we know all about fracking in several states, not good at all you can't drink gas hands off our ground water at all costs, there is other renewable energy*

- Unconventional gas mining and fracking is harmful to health. Communities living near gasfields 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

I urge the inquiry to make a recommendation to permanently ban fracking and all unconventional gas mining in Western Australia.

Signed,

*C E Winton*  
*Mauden C Winton*