

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

*Forty-second Report — “Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas”  
— Tabling*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [2.21 pm]: I am directed to table the forty-second report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs advising the house of its report into the implications for Western Australia of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas.

[See paper 3609.]

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** The report I have just tabled advises the house of the committee's findings and recommendations in relation to the development of the onshore shale gas industry in Western Australia. This report is the culmination of several years of evidence gathering, research and engagement with the community through public hearings and submissions. The committee also examined the agencies involved in the regulation of hydraulic fracturing in detail, and in some cases on multiple occasions, to determine if regulators are prepared for the challenges that hydraulic fracturing industry may bring.

The committee found significant concern amongst the community about the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing, but at the same time there is a level of misinformation present in the public domain that can cause confusion and mistrust. This report has investigated the main areas of concern raised by the community, including land access and the rights of resource companies to enter onto private land, the chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing and their potential risks, how much water is used and alternatives to taking water from aquifers, and the legacy of hydraulic fracturing on land and on communities.

The committee has made 51 findings and 12 recommendations, all of which are intended to assist decision makers to deliver the necessary safeguards in the regulation of hydraulic fracturing in Western Australia. It is likely that the issue of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas will continue to be the subject of robust public debate in this state. The committee is confident that this report provides a body of factual information that will assist the Parliament of Western Australia, decision makers and the community in their contemplation of this important industry. I commend the report to the house.