

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

17 November 2015

Environment and Public Affairs Committee Report into Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs tabled its report on Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas in the Legislative Council today.

The report is the culmination of two 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 to determine if regulators are prepared for the challenges that an onshore hydraulic fracturing industry may bring.

The Committee has found that there is 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.

The 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 use of chemicals during the process 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, 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 its report provides a body of factual information which will assist the Parliament of Western Australia, decision makers and the community in their contemplation of this important industry.

Further information, including the report, is available at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/env

For media inquiries, contact Hon Simon O'Brien MLC, Chairman on 0407 190 541.

Other inquiries to Ms Margaret Liveris, Committee Clerk on (08) 9222 7229.

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman