

I am deeply concerned about the State Government's intention to extract unconventional gas from shale rock formations in Western Australia. The process of hydraulic fracturing is fraught with danger. By definition, unconventional gas extraction is far more costly and difficult to extract than conventional gas extraction.

In order to facilitate the gas extraction, huge amounts of water are mixed with highly toxic chemicals then are pumped into the gas well. Due to the porous nature of the rock formations, the toxic 'fracking' fluid permeates the surrounding area, deep below the ground. These toxic chemical remain underground permanently – inevitably seeping into our aquifers and ground water supplies.

Under any normal circumstances, such an act of environmental vandalism, would incur huge penalties. Under pressure from the huge economic clout of the oil and gas industry, promising great financial benefits to the economy, hydraulic fracturing, better known as 'fracking', is exempt from all the environmental laws which are there to protect the environment and in particular, our precious water supply.

Also of concern, is simply, 'the amount of water being wasted in this process'. This water would be far more productive being used for farming, agriculture and dare I say it, 'human consumption'. Moreover, the same water can be used over and over and over and over again. Once water is mixed with toxic chemicals and pumped into the ground, which uses energy in itself, the water can never be used again. After the gas is extracted by unconventional means, it needs to be compressed, which also uses lots of energy. Graeme John Eddington

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