

To:
Ms Margaret Liveris,
Committee Clerk,
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,
Legislative Council,
Parliament House,
GPO Box A11 Perth WA 6837.
email: lcepac@parliament.wa.gov.au

From:
Shirley Collins,

Date: September 20, 2013

**SUBMISSION to the WA Parliamentary Inquiry into
The Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas**

I write on behalf of our children. To address the Terms of Reference and the call to broaden the Terms of Reference of this inquiry, I write in support of the comprehensive research and evidence submitted by the following entities:

- Doctors for the Environment: <http://dea.org.au/topics/category/CSG>
- Conservation Council of Western Australia: <http://ccwa.org.au/node/33268>
- Clean Water, Healthy Land: <http://cleanwaterhealthyland.org.au/>
- National Toxics Network: <https://www.facebook.com/NTN>
- No Fracking Way: <http://nofrackingway.org.au/>
- Lock the Gate: <http://www.lockthegate.org.au/>

Environmental and Social risks

Our children are asking us if we are doing the best we can to leave the world in good shape for their future. Their questions centre on fundamental human 'needs' that are few, finite and classifiable (such as food, water, air, shelter, safety), rather than economic 'wants' that are infinite and insatiable. As Canadian Severn Suzuki said as a 12 year old when she addressed the UN Earth Summit in 1992: *"I don't have all the solutions ... neither do you ... If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it. ... You teach us how to behave in the world ... to respect others ... to clean up our mess ... not to hurt other creatures ... to not be greedy ... but are we even on your list of priorities? ... You grown-ups say you love us ... please make your actions reflect your words."*

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZsDliXzyAY>

In the US, it is still an unanswered question: *"Does fracking cause earthquakes and sinkholes?"* such as the one last month just minutes away from popular Disney World, Florida.

Video: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/12/us/florida-resort-sinkhole/index.html>

The Kimberley is too precious to lose. Our arable farmlands, clean water and clean air are too precious to lose. Our food security is too precious to ransom.

Health risks

September is US National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Congressman Brian Higgins addressed the House yesterday saying *"Cancer is the leading cause of death in children over 1 year old. Moreover, cancer kills more children than cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, aids, asthma, and diabetes combined. ... Our children deserve to be cancer-free, they deserve to be just kids."*

Video: <http://higgins.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/higgins-recognizes-national-childhood-cancer-awareness-month-on-house>

It is still an unanswered question: *"What is the cause of the increasing prevalence of juvenile cancer?"* Surely the answer lies in reaching our threshold of total toxic load while our immune system remains the least understood system in the human body. Undoubtedly, the proliferation of chemicals in the environment and the shortcomings of our regulatory system are contributing factors. Fracking can only exacerbate the health risks for our children.

Economic risks

We are long past the days of private profit while socialising the costs. WA losing its AAA credit rating this week should be a sufficient indicator that we must work smarter and give serious consideration to clean energy fuel and jobs that return profits to WA.

There are clean energy alternatives that are safer, cheaper, less destructive, and more economically viable.

Please give due consideration to the **Energy 2029** plan proposed by the Greens:

100% Renewable Energy in WA is within our reach if we act with urgency: <http://www.greenswa.net.au/energy2029>

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Collins