September 12th 2013

Ms Margaret Liveris
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
Perth WA, 6837

To Ms Liveris,

My husband and I are concerned about hydraulic fracturing and what it means for the Midwest region, particularly Geraldton where we live. Our parents have a farm north of Geraldton in Binnu and we are also concerned about what fracking will mean for their future in farming. We have a young daughter, who in the future, we hope will have clean drinking water and fresh food, free from contaminants.

There are many potential risks involved with fracking. The terms of reference need to be expanded to include; the potential for human health impacts, social impacts, groundwater contamination, air pollution, impacts on farming and pastoral land, as well as on natural ecosystems, climate change, regulation and cumulative impact.

Term of Reference 1 - How hydraulic fracturing may impact on current and future uses of land:

If our family farm is hydraulically fractured will our family still be able to have the same cropping program or will the well take up arable land?

Each well requires much water; this will increase the amount of trucks on the road and therefore more road deterioration making it more dangerous for driving on the road. Will the mining companies involved or government put extra funding towards maintaining roads and extra overtaking lanes to make it safe for the public?

Will the wells be maintained forever once they are no longer fracked? And how will potential breakages 2-5 km under the ground be monitored?

Will water be tested before and after fracturing begins?

Do farmers have the right to say no to having their land fracked?

Will fracking increase the likelihood of seismic activity?

Term of Reference 2 - The regulation of chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process

Geraldton pumps most of it water from the one aquifer. Will this aquifer be safe from chemical poisoning? How will you know if it does get poisoned?

Will the holding ponds be sufficient to prevent air pollution, potential health risks and other environmental impacts?
After the fracturing process is complete how long will the companies involved be held accountable for maintenance of the well?

Term of Reference 3 - The use of ground water in the hydraulic fracturing process and the potential for recycling of ground water:

What procedures are in place to monitor the levels of out ground water to ensure it doesn't run out?

Term of Reference 4 - The reclamation (rehabilitation) of land that has been hydraulically fractured:

After the well is closed on a farm will farmers be able to continue to crop as it was prior to the well?

Sincerely

Mrs. Rebecca and Mr. Glen Mackin