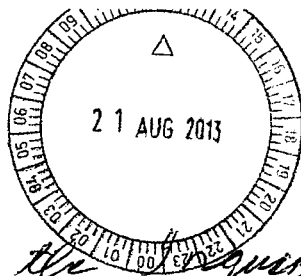


Andrew Smart



Margaret Liveris
Committee Clerk
Environment & Public Affairs Committee
Perth W.A.

18-8-13

To the inquiry into the implications of W.A. of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas, Australia being the driest continent on earth cannot afford to jeopardise its groundwater for many thousands or even tens of thousands of years or more.

Everywhere in the world where "fracking" has occurred the groundwater has been utterly destroyed.

The hazardous, non-biodegradable chemicals pumped into the groundwater during the drilling process and "fracking" is only part of the problem. The released gas then contaminates the groundwater as well.

All the farms and stations I have worked on as a mechanic almost entirely rely on bore and groundwater, if this was not available they would cease to exist.

Nowhere in the world has "fracked" groundwater been able to be "reclaimed" or "rehabilitated".

As someone who has operated bores in the numerous areas for more than 15 years many other suburban areas depend also on groundwater.

I would like to appear in person in front of the Committee.

As the driest continent on Earth and so much of our food production relying on groundwater as well as drinking water, surely Australia simply cannot risk our essential groundwater supply.

Andrew Smart