



Brett Woodroffe

Environment and Public Affairs Committee.

Inquiry Into the Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas.

Thank you in advance for giving me time to read my submission. As a studying West Australian sustainability student I am appalled that this government is considering green lighting gas Fracking. Every day in my studies I encounter alarming information about the state of not only our planet but of our local environment. As I'm sure you are well aware less than 19GL of water has flowed into our dams this year despite it being considered a "wet winter". With the greater south west area requiring 350GL of water per year there is a large disparity between these figures.

So we are moving toward ground water being our staple water supply. At the same time government approval is given to gas companies to use our precious water to Frack the shale rock and potentially poison our water supply. Obviously there is disturbing evidence against management of wells and water supplies by the gas Fracking companies. From within our countries borders there is alarming messages coming out of Queensland and New South Wales of the total lack of regard for the local communities and environment by some of the gas Fracking companies.

Perhaps though the most appalling part of the gas Fracking story is the complete lack of transparency between the government and the gas Fracking companies. Of the 23 chemicals used in the Fracking process none of them have been tested for their effect on groundwater. Also as disturbing is the regulatory body for shale Fracking is not the Department of Environment but the Department of Mines and Petroleum. A department who no doubt specialise in managing resource recovery not the environmental implications attached to the resource recovery

I was fortunate enough to spend some time with _____ recently and they described to me how their ancestors understood the flow of ground water and how all the aquifers are connected. These are things we are only starting to understand now. Maybe we should take the knowledge of the first Australians and apply it to government processes after all living on the land for 40000years you think they would understand how to manage the environment

Thank you again and I look forward to hearing the positive outcome from the parliamentary inquiry.

Regards

Brett Woodroffe