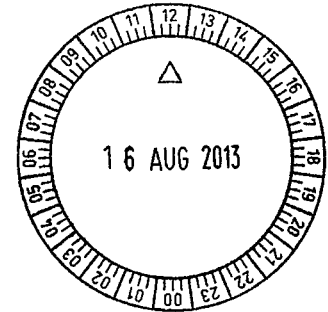




THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.)
NON-PARTY POLITICAL NON-SECTARIAN

15 August 2013

Ms Margaret Liveris
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
PERTH 6837



Dear Ms Liveris

Inquiry into the Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas

At the 89th State Conference of CWA of WA a motion was carried requesting a moratorium on gas fracking in Western Australia until it can be proven by an independent body to be safe for the State's underground and surface water supply, so members welcome the opportunity to forward comments to the above Inquiry.

The metropolitan area, regional towns and agricultural production and future food security are dependent on safe underground water. Climate change has necessitated greater protection of all the existing water supplies in WA. There is concern at the vast quantity of water that is required for each well to be 'fracked'. Once the water is used it is toxic with the chemicals that have been used in the fracking process. It is discarded by injecting it into the ground for disposal. It is believed this can be a cause of earth movement, will contaminate aquifers or when left to evaporate in holding ponds contaminate the air, land and water around the ponds.

The clean groundwater can be polluted by migration of the toxic fracking fluids through small existing fault systems, through leakage in concrete well casings and leaching into shallow aquifers and run off from holding ponds. Adding random catastrophic events such as earthquakes, floods, bushfires to mining ventures and the danger to the environment and future pure water is horrifying. There is concern that the chemicals used in the practice are carcinogenic and that the shale formations can contain high levels of radioactive materials. It

With all of the above issues members do not believe that gas deposits which require fracking should be a source of energy for W.A. There are opportunities for world class renewable energy resources such as solar and wind power to be developed. Over the full life cycle from exploration to use, shale gas is a higher greenhouse gas emitter than conventional gas, coal or oil. There is grave concern that there is little enforceable regulation in WA to minimize the negative environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing of shale gas.

It is requested that no gas fracking take place until an independent body can assure members that the State's underground and surface water supply will be safe if fracking is carried out.

Yours sincerely

Anne Gething (Mrs)
General Secretary