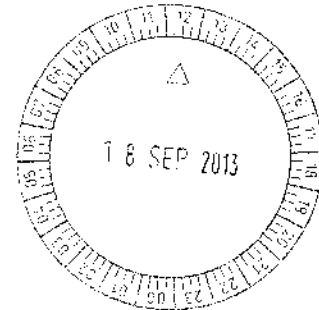


11 September 2013

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



INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR W.A. OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING MINING

It is my contention that there has been insufficient scientific analysis of the potentially longstanding and harmful effects of the hydraulic fracturing procedures on the environment. The devastation and degradation caused to large areas of America should be a very strong warning to Australia before we even contemplate such a dangerous mining practice here.

Western Australia is reliant on ever-decreasing water supplies and I maintain we cannot consider any mining activity which has the potential to contaminate ground water. Also our poor top soil is already struggling to support farming on a regular basis without it being further impoverished.

It has already been proved that the chemicals being used in hydraulic fracturing elsewhere are causing serious health hazards. The short-term production from these mining sites is definitely out of all proportion to the risks they pose and I am amazed our elected representatives are even considering this method of mining before extensive scientific data has been collected.

From what I read, BTEX compounds, which emit toxic gases, can be released from source rocks during the 'fracking' process, and the chemicals such as 2-Butoxyethanol (2-BE) used during this process, is extremely dangerous to humans – and no doubt native animals in the vicinity. This chemical alone is known to have contaminated drinking water wells in the areas where 'fracking' took place in Wyoming, U.S.A. I could go on: this is just one example.

Anyone giving support to these (often overseas-owned) mining companies will be responsible for any ill effects on the health of Australians. We are being kept in the dark about these matters, but I think the Australian public has learned from the events in the U.S.A. and will not tolerate such dangerous and scientifically-unproved practices to go ahead on our soil.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Whitehead.