Ningaloo Soils

In 2011, the Ningaloo Coast was granted World Heritage status. This was largely due to our underground system of caves which are home to many tiny prehistoric marine and land creatures.

The geology of this region (karst) is very fragile and unique. Being very porous, karst does not filter water as well as most soils, and is very susceptible to pollution. Water (and pollutants) flow relatively quickly through karst, which in Exmouth, stores our drinking water.

What can I do?

Read up on fracking and see what people are experiencing.

Call your super fund and make sure you are not invested in any fracking companies (Bounty Oil & Gas hold most of the titles in this area).

Write to mining companies to express your concern.

Victoria has had a moratorium (temporary ban) on fracking for three years. Tasmania has recently announced a five year moratorium.

Tell your politicians that you want a moratorium on fracking here in WA.

Mr Vincent Catania MLA
Member for North West Central

Po Box 1000,
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northwest@mp.wa.gov.au

Mr Stephen Dawson MLC
ALP member for mining and pastoral region

PO Box 2440,
South Hedland, WA, 6722
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Further Information

Websites:

www.lockthegate.org.au
www.ccwa.org.au
www.cleanwaterhealthyland.org.au

Books:


Cape Conservation Group:

info@ccg.org.au

Videos:

The following videos are all available at www.youtube.com

Fractured Country
Warning from Wyoming
Gasland trailer (there is a small fee for the full movie)
Gas Leak! By 4 Corners
Fracking: An Inconvenient Truth

Information regarding intentions to frack within the North West Cape

Other communities have already experienced the damage caused by FRACKING

Don’t wait and see what will happen to our town

For more information email info@lockthegate.org or visit www.lockthegate.org.au
Permits are issued by the Department of Mines, Not by the EPA.

Exploration Permit 359

The work programme for this site includes an exploration well, geothermal surveys, 50 3D seismic surveys, 50 seismic interpretations and a second exploration well all by 2018. This is subject to successful application to the DMP. American company, UIL LLC, is expected to drill the exploration well to test the unconventional potential of the area.

Some towns in WA have declared themselves frack free (Greenough, Coorow, Irwin) with many more in the process. Together we can do the same for Exmouth.

Exploration Permit 435

This area is connected to EP 359 above, and the plan is to test for the potential for unconventional collection (fracking).

Leaks in NSW and QLD from fracking operations have caused groundwater contamination, illness and new rivers and bores which can hold a flame.

Exploration Permit 412

This area is also shale, so is likely to be drilled by unconventional methods.

While we won’t be kept awake by the noise here in town, gas flaring will bring with it a high risk of bushfire.

What is fracking and how is it different to conventional gas mining?

Although mining companies talk about best practice and safe operation, there have been many stories of leaks in wells in the USA and NSW.

Between 15% – 80% of the fracking fluid is recovered from the well. The rest remains in the ground. While mining companies assure us that this fluid cannot get into our water table, there are videos (Gasland, Fractured Country) showing tap water and farm water bores being set alight due to contamination.

Recovered fluid is held in open, lined ponds. In addition to reported leaks, the fluid is hazardous to health and evaporates into surrounding air.

Spills are a risk in an area prone to cyclones and flooding.

The volume of water used in fracking is immense. In its environmental plan submitted to DMP on 21/9/2015, Buru Energy stated their intention to use 22 000 kl just to fracture a test well near Broome. In Exmouth, that would come from our already limited drinking water stocks. Mining companies will talk about drilling one or two test wells, but production requires many wells – dozens to hundreds, sometimes more than 1000 per project to collect all the oil or gas. Each well is connected via an access road, and areas are cleared for infrastructure.

Is it worth it?