

Fracking

Commitment: The Nationals WA support the rights of landholders to veto un-conventional gas exploration and extraction on their property. If re-elected, we will introduce legislation to allow property owners to say no.

Onshore gas in WA

Western Australia has an enormous onshore gas resource, and if possible that resource should be utilised. With the world's population growing at an ever increasing rate, energy security and affordability is quickly developing into a priority area for governments across the globe.

Technological advancement over the last decade mean new and innovative ways of extracting resources have developed quickly, leading to a surge in unconventional gas extraction.

This has led to community concern about the impact this will have on the environment and agricultural production. While WA's onshore gas resources are tight and shale gas, which are very different to coal seam gas which is extracted on the east coast of Australia, there is still widespread anxiety.

Industries such as agriculture, mining and manufacturing all pose potential risks to the environment which are managed on a day-to-day basis.

The Nationals WA are strong in our belief that, given the correct policy settings, mining and agriculture can continue to co-exist as they have done for many years in WA. This relies on us continuing to protect our water resources and strengthening veto rights for landholders.

Landholders' rights

We recognise that there is a significant gap between the bargaining strength of a resource company and that of a landholder.

The Nationals WA support landowners and believe they should be able to negotiate on fair commercial terms.

While landholders can refuse permission for a mining tenement to be created over their land where there are dwellings or infrastructure, or the land is under cultivation for agricultural purposes the same rights do not apply for gas exploration.

If elected with the balance of power we will amend the Western Australian Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 to include a 'right of veto' by landholders to protect their interests from exploration and production by commercial onshore oil and gas operators.

Water security

Water is a precious resource, essential for our local communities to drink, grow food and use for recreation. We support a robust monitoring and protection regime, in which every precaution possible is taken to prevent any contamination of water resources.

The Nationals WA will make sure we are doing everything we can to safeguard our agricultural land and underground water resources, and in doing so promote confidence in the industry.

The Nationals WA will provide landholders with a 'right of veto' over hydraulic fracturing in Western Australia.

The Nationals WA welcome your feedback on this policy:

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THE NATIONALS
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