

# **GASFIELD MARGARET RIVER FREE SWWA**



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Join us in our fight to prevent industrialisation in the SW by keeping gas fields out of the Augusta Margaret River Shire and the City of Busselton.

- Whicher Range is located between Metricup & Busselton just off Chapman Hill Road. Well 4 is situated 2kms from the Margaret River. Well 1 & 4 have been drilled through the Yarragadee aquifer.
- After fracking failures in 2004, well 5 was capped with over 620 000 thousand litres of diesel based fracking fluid at the bottom of the gas reserve, lying under the Yarragadee aquifer. In a priority 1 drinking water catchment.
- The gas disaster in California has been compared to the BP oil spill off the coast of Louisiana in terms of environmental impacts. This gas store well is 2.4 kms deep and located in close proximity to a residential environment. Whicher Range wells are approximately 4 kms deep and are located in close proximity to a residential environment.
- There is a 60% chance of well casings failing after 20 years. Well 4 at Whicher Range is 19 years old and well 1 is 48 years old. The California leak was due to well casing failure and the well was 50 years old.
- Latest research identifies gas methane is leaving a larger carbon footprint than coal because methane is 86 times more power than CO<sub>2</sub> over 20 years.
- Farmers don't have the legal right to refuse gas companies entry to their property and they don't have to right refuse to negotiate with the gas companies. Farmers don't have a choice, they must allow gas wells and gas fields on their land. They only have the right to negotiate for financial compensation.
- Onshore gas projects are exempt from EPA assessments and are regulated by the DMP to a best practice model. Currently there are no regulations in place that are legally enforceable, should the gas companies impact on the environment or contaminate the Yarragadee and our drinking water in the Southwest.
- Fracking a well can use between 10-30 million litres of water over the lifetime of the well
- This industry is asking us to risk our water, our air, our local industries, our health and the health of our children, in order to provide cheap energy to an overseas market, while here in Australia we pay the highest domestic price for gas in the WORLD!

## **The claims there won't be FRACKING here in the South West could be misleading**

- There are no restrictions on the permits issued by the Department for Mines and Petroleum (DMP), this means there are no assurance they won't be fracking.
- The type of gas in the South West, is predominately shale and tight sands gas. Fracturing of the rock is essential to extract shale gas and gas in tight sand reserves, this gas is classified as unconventional gas (according to the industry regulator, the DMP). Only tight gas encased in a reservoir can be extracted using conventional gas techniques and even towards the end of the life of the well, stimulation of some kind is often required to extract the remainder of the gas.
- Horizontal or re-directional drilling is planned for Whicher Range therefore, this is not conventional gas. This contradicts the claims, Whicher Range is conventional gas. The DMP's own website states tight gas can only be extracted through fracking.
- Surface waters can't be protected from gas leaks with horizontal (re-directional) drilling because they often don't cement around the steel casings. Yet they have plans at Whicher Range, to drill up to 20 re-directional bore holes from one main well. There is also, plans for at least 7 of these well pads, which may require up to 70 acres of land for this so called "small scale" gasfield, in a priority 1 drinking water catchment, which tops up the drinking water for Margaret River.

### **THIS WILL BE A GASFIELD IN OUR DRINKING WATER CATCHMENT**

- The Capel Shire was aware back in August 2015, of plans by gas companies to frack in the SW. These motions were moved by the Council back in August 2015; That the Council, at this time, does not:
  1. Undertake a community survey seeking the community's views on the exploration for oil and gas and the extraction process referred to as "**hydraulic fracking**" in the Shire of Capel; or
  2. Instigate a political/lobbying campaign voicing its opposition to the exploration for oil and gas and potential extraction by the process known as "**hydraulic fracking**: in the Shire of Capel.
- The gas company awaiting approval for gas exploration permits between Bunbury and Busselton, was previously known as Unconventional Resources.

### **TIGHT GAS IS WORSE THAN CSG**

- Shale and tight gas wells require more water and chemicals for lubrication. This is due to additional pressures impacting on the process because of the well depth, resulting in twice the amount of toxic flowback waste water.
- The gas can still migrate into surface waters and acquirers; the depth of the well will not prevent that. This has been proven to be the case in Pennsylvania and Wyoming where drinking water has been permanently contaminated, as a direct result of deep shale and tight gas fracking projects.

**WE ARE RISKING EVERYTHING.....WHAT ARE THEY RISKING?????**