What's at risk?

The Kimberley has some of the largest intact **natural landscapes** left in the world.

It is also a **culturally rich** region, home to a living Aboriginal culture that is tens of thousands of years old where Traditional Owners have a strong connection to country. First Nations peoples' rights, interests in, and knowledge about the land and waters are critical to the region's future.

The National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River, with its outstanding cultural values, supports a huge array of wildlife including the critically endangered Freshwater Sawfish and 18 species of fish found nowhere else in the world.

The eucalypt woodland and tall grassland that covers the region and most of northern Australia are the world's most extensive intact tropical savannahs. The vast Kimberley coast and seas are recognised as being amongst the most intact marine areas in the world.

Roebuck Plains Wetlands

Fracking the Kimberley

The iconic Kimberley region has been identified as one of the most prospective regions in the world for shale gas and tight sands gas production, with an estimated 438 trillion cubic feet of gas within the onshore Canning Basin.

Although still at the early exploration stage, tens of thousands of wells could be drilled in the area if the industry goes to full production, changing the stunning Kimberley landscape forever.

What the frack?

To date, only 3 wells have been fracked in the Kimberley but already significant issues have occurred. Community members found Buru Energy's Yulleroo 2 well **leaking greenhouse gases**. It was later revealed that this well hadn't been inspected by any government department for 7 years, from when it was drilled until the second leak was reported in 2015. At the Asgard well site near the Fitzroy River, **wastewater** was found to be **radioactive**.

If this industry can't be safely managed with just a few wells, the impact of tens of thousands of wells could be catastrophic for this iconic region. Although the WA Government has committed to safeguards including veto rights for Traditional Owners and freeholders, these protections are yet to be enacted.

Help ban fracking in WA!

Take Action:
www.frackfreewa.org.au/banfracking

Learn More:
www.lockthegate.org.au
www.frackfreewa.org.au

Get Involved:
email: frackfreewa@lockthegate.org.au

LOCK THE GATE

The KIMBERLEY UNDER THREAT FROM FRACKING

What is fracking?

Fracking is a mining process that is used to extract 'unconventional' fossil gas and oil. It involves pumping huge amounts of water and sand mixed with a cocktail of chemicals into a well under extreme pressure to crack the rocks and make the gas or oil flow.

Fracking gasfields also involve the industrialisation of entire landscapes. They usually require thousands of wells, vast networks of pipelines, roads, compressor stations, wastewater ponds, processing plants and other infrastructure.

Fracking gasfield, USA

Fracking site, Kimberley WA

What are the impacts?

Water: Fracking uses vast amounts of water, up to 1100 truckloads per frack. It also requires hundreds of drums of toxic chemicals, and places ground and surface water at risk of contamination.

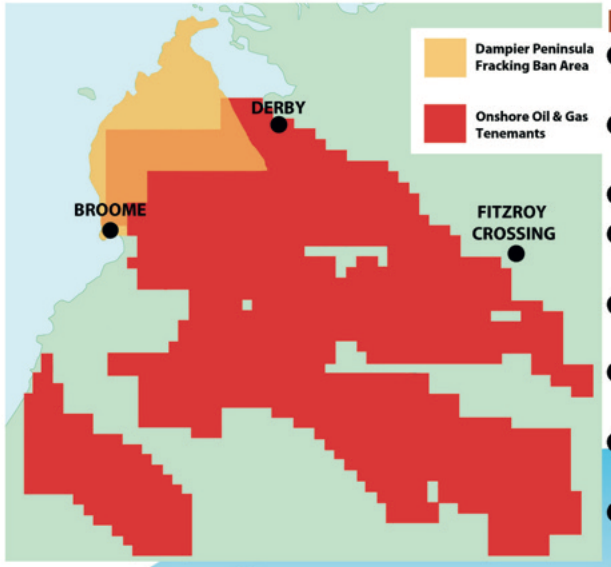
Land: Fracking operations cut up the land, and flora and fauna habitat with widespread clearing for tracks, pipelines, wells pads, pumping stations and processing facilities.

Health: Fracking operations have serious consequences for human health including cardiological issues, cancer, skin conditions, respiratory ailments and infant health problems.

Climate: The greenhouse gas footprint from developing WA's known shale and tight gas reserves would be immense. If all gasfields are developed, they would create about 3 times the annual pollution we can emit under Australia's already modest Paris Climate Agreement targets.

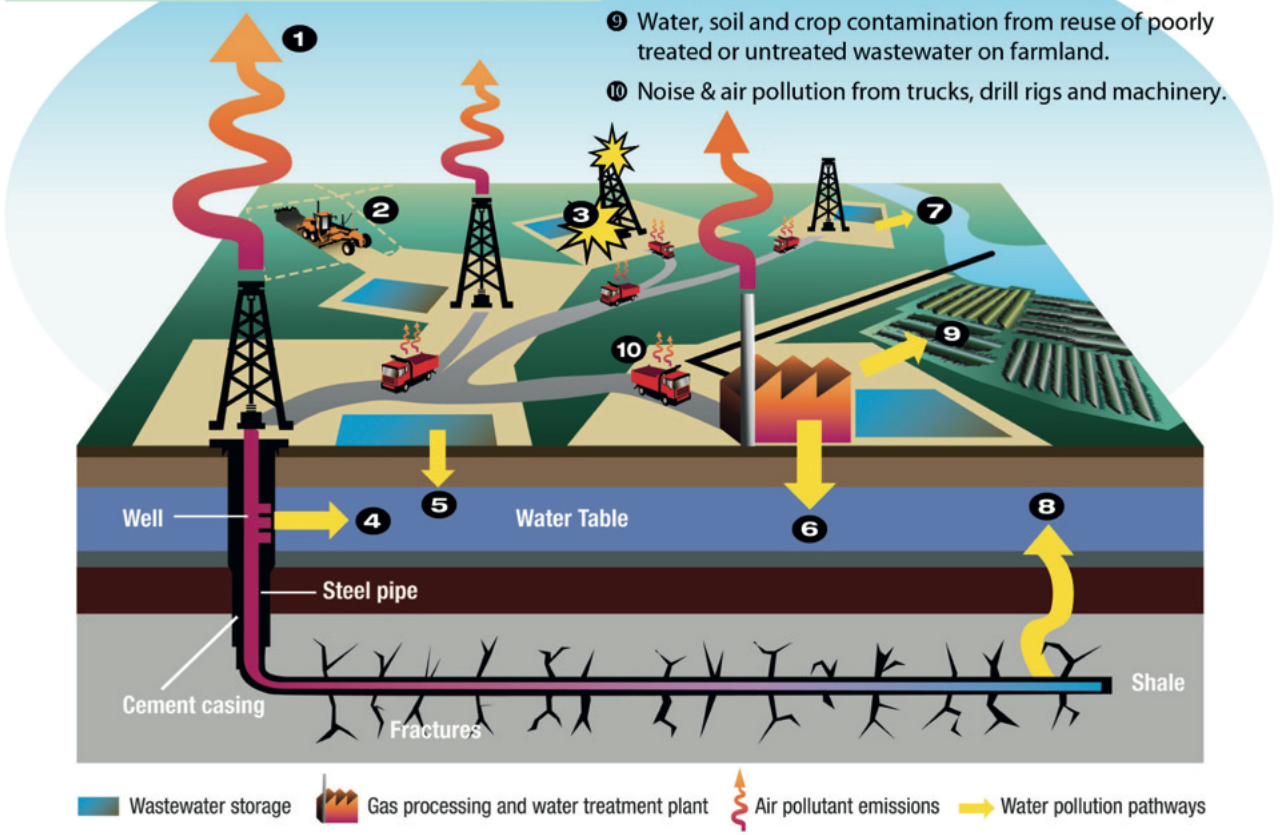
Jobs: The gas industry is a capital-intensive industry with most jobs only required for the short initial construction phase. Few long term jobs are created.

More information: www.frackfreewa.org.au



Impacts of unconventional gas operations:

1. Air pollution from a wide range of hazardous air pollutants released from wells and infrastructure.
2. Loss of large areas of farmland & bushland for well pads, pipelines & roads.
3. Fugitive emissions from leaks in wells, pipes & infrastructure.
4. Contamination of underground water resources due to well casing failure.
5. Soil & water pollution from spills, leakage & overflow of toxic wastewater.
6. Soil & groundwater contamination from reinjection of poorly treated or untreated wastewater.
7. Pollution of waterways from wastewater & chemical spills and release of poorly treated wastewater.
8. Migration of gas and toxic substances into groundwater through natural faults and fracking induced pathways.
9. Water, soil and crop contamination from reuse of poorly treated or untreated wastewater on farmland.
10. Noise & air pollution from trucks, drill rigs and machinery.



Graphic adapted from: Gas fracking: Can we safely squeeze the rocks? UNEP/GEAS, 2012.