



Tackling climate change in a policy-free zone:

The role of community & civil society



Piers Verstegen Conservation Council of Western Australia



Australia gets carbon price...



But Australian States vacate space on climate change...

Australia's carbon price scrapped...



Our Pledge

“We'll immediately legislate to scrap the Carbon Tax.”

Tony Abbott.

www.realsolutions.org.au

Eco Hybrid

Orderly transition or chaotic disruption?



Governments are attempting to minimise the impacts of climate policy on the BAU economy, however...

In the absence of credible government policies to reduce emissions in a measured and predictable way (orderly transition);

Communities and civil society will look for other ways to achieve abatement.

This may ultimately be much more disruptive to the economy and government authority.

From 'top-down' to 'bottom up'



Response:

- little community confidence in government or 'top-down' measures
- Review of strategy employed by civil society and environment groups
- Shift in approach to focus 'at source' (keeping fossil fuels in the ground)

Key strategies - Divestment



Key strategies – Blocking access to land



Key strategies – legal challenges



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Federal Court overturns approval of Adani Carmichael coal mine in Queensland

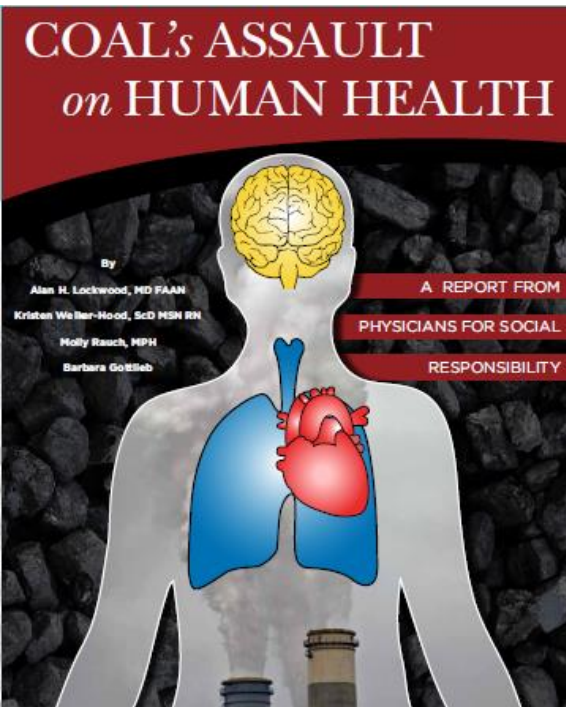
Adve

August 5, 2015

Comments **192**

Read later

Key strategies - Removing social license



WA's domestic GHG Emissions



Total current WA GHG emissions ~ **80** MT p/a

New offshore LNG projects will increase this by 1/3

Wheatstone LNG >**10** MT p/a

(no effective abatement conditions)

Browse FLNG **8.7**MT p/a

(no abatement conditions at all – cancels out entire ERF abatement)

Prelude FLNG **2.3**MT p/a

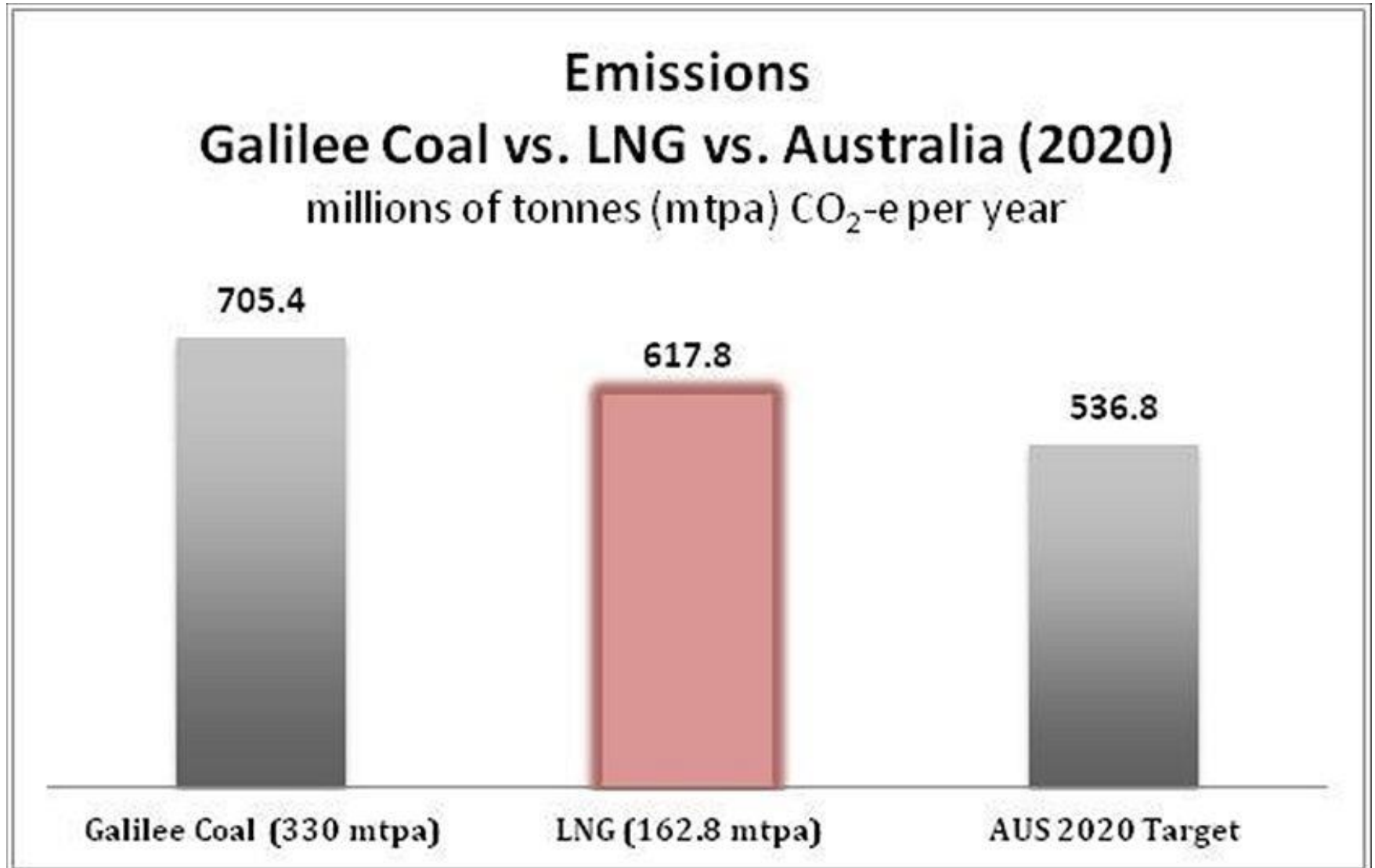
(required offsets reportedly sold by proponent)

Gorgon LNG **4 – 6.7** MT p/a

(some CO2 reinjection required - if feasible)

This is only the emissions from processing the gas!

Lifecycle emissions from Australia's fossil fuels compared with 202 carbon budget



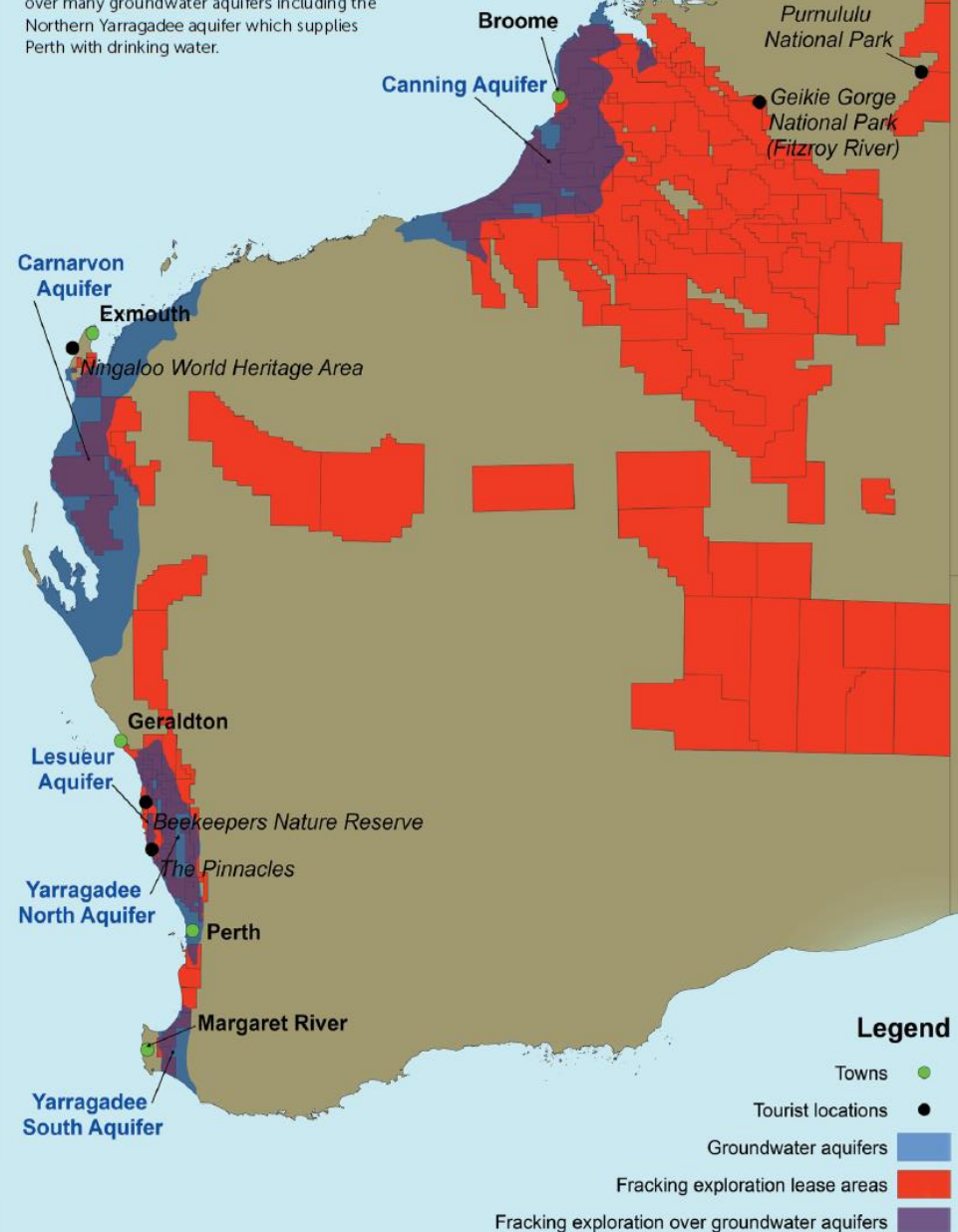
WA onshore gas resources

- One of the world's largest onshore gas reserves
- Estimated 280 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas = 200 times Australia's annual gas use
- Require an estimated 100,000+ fracking wells
- Could produce over 20GT of CO2 (domestic + international)

WHICH AREAS ARE AT RISK?

Vast areas across the Kimberley, Canarvon, Mid-west and even the Southwest wine region contain shale gas targeted for fracking.

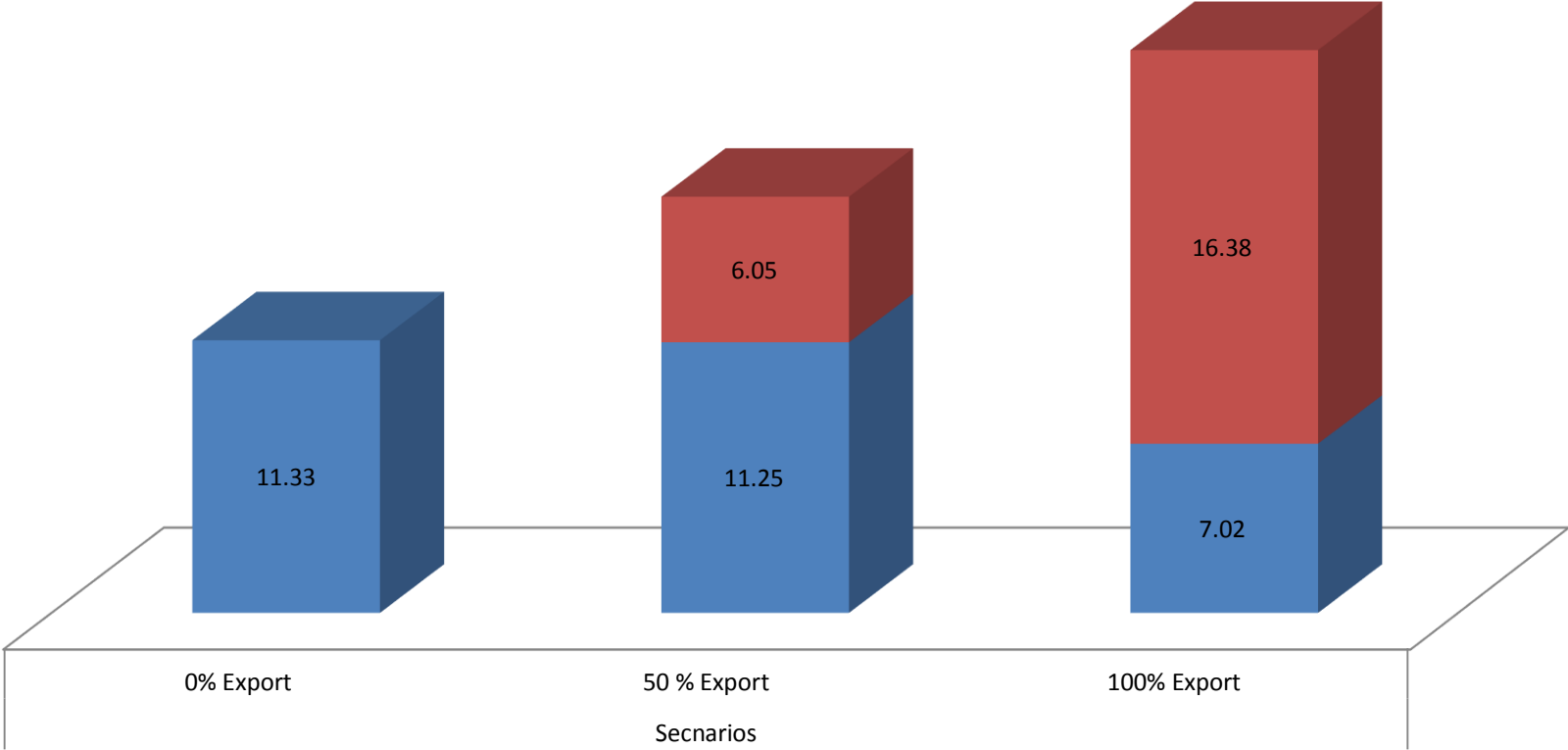
Fracking exploration leases have been issued over many groundwater aquifers including the Northern Yarragadee aquifer which supplies Perth with drinking water.



Potential lifecycle CO2 from WA's onshore gas

Emissions in GtCo2e

■ Domestic ■ International





This is what fracking looks like.

Fracking in Midwest nature reserves

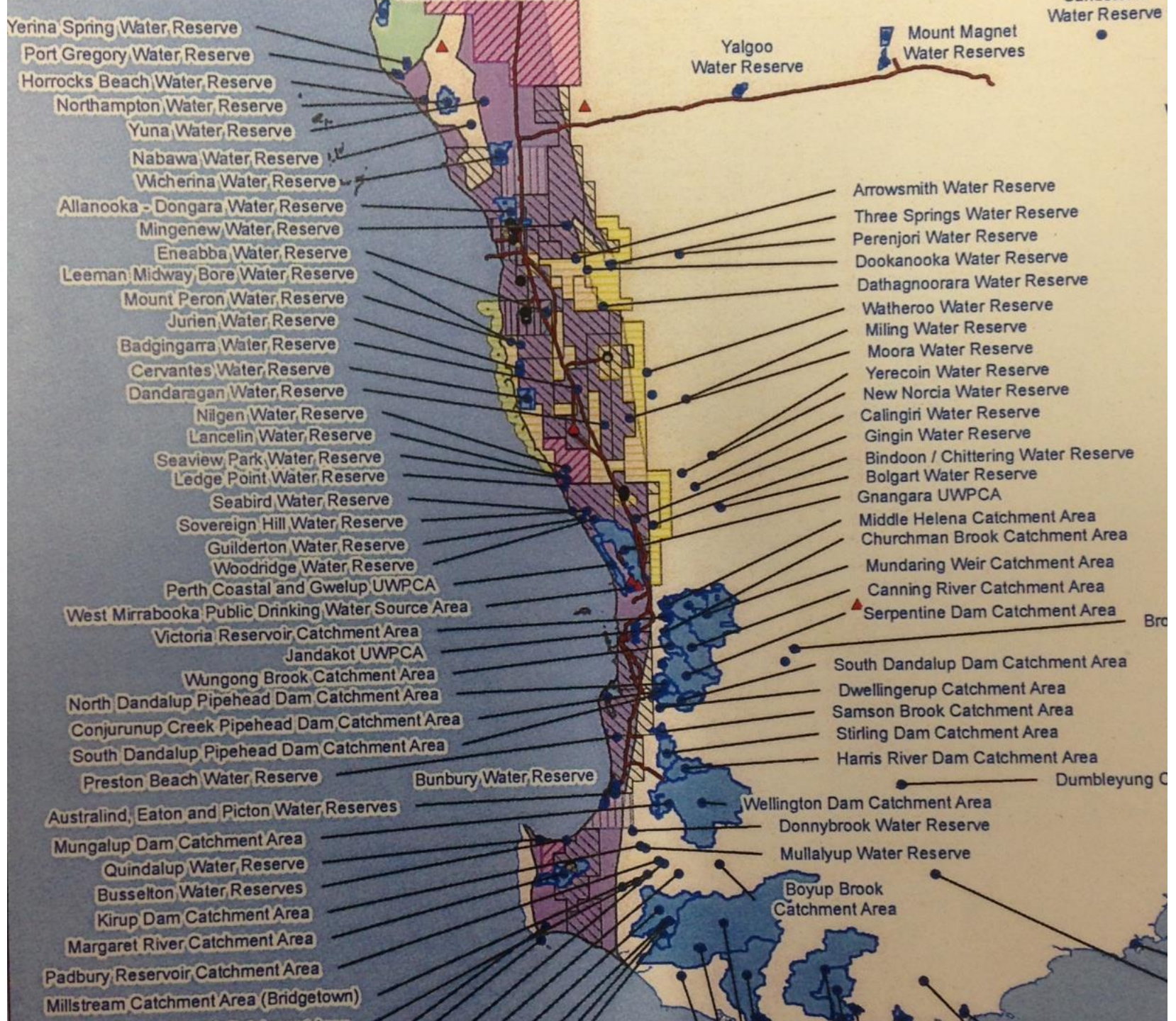


Haliburton Fracking pumps, Arrowsmith



Drover -1 Gas Well, Green Head





Gas fracking – Regulatory free zone!

- No EPA assessment of fracking (Nationals MP's saying EPA 'abrogated responsibility')
- Commonwealth 'Water trigger' does not apply to shale gas in WA
- No single government agency in WA responsible for protecting groundwater quality & no standards in place
- Fracking effectively exempt from pollution control regulations
- Regulator (DMP) is also promoting development
- DMP requirement: 'As low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP)
- No access to monitoring data by community
- Government review found DMP's *Environment Management Plans* 'unenforceable'
- Zero controls on GHG pollution

Community Response



Community response (WA) 'Gas-field free' communities



4 Guardian News המגזין

Friday, August 15, 2014

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Greenough says no to fracking

■ Ryan Hadji and Peter Sweeney

Western Australia's first Gasfield Free Community, Central Greenough, will celebrate its new status with an official declaration ceremony in Greenough Hamlet on Sunday.

Gasfield Free Communities is a grassroots movement against gas mining and exploration.

A GFC declaration means communities are against unconventional gas mining on their land and in their communities, with many opting to lock their gates to drilling and exploration.

Several hundred people are expected to attend Sunday's event,

which includes a community rally and picnic.

However, the declaration has been described as "little more than a political stunt with no legal status" by fracking group APPEA.

"The truth is, hydraulic fracking is safe, reliable and a well-understood technology that has already been used successfully in WA," Stedman Ellis, chief operating officer with APPEA, said.

"Mid West residents can be confident WA's onshore gas industry is strictly regulated, technically advanced and strongly committed to the highest possible environmental and safety standards.

"People who say no to natural

gas are saying no to jobs and economic opportunities for local businesses, reduced carbon emissions and increased energy security. In Queensland, the gas industry has created more than 40,000 jobs and has invested more than \$120 million in local communities."

Founding member of Frack Free Geraldton Jo Franklin said the declaration came after weeks of doorknocking by community volunteers.

"We surveyed the entire district of central Greenough, and more than 96 per cent said they wanted their community to be gasfield free," she said.

"This declaration is a clear state-

ment from the community that fracking and other forms of unconventional gas mining are not wanted and the frackers do not have a social licence to operate here."

The Gasfield Free declaration process, started two years ago by communities in the Eastern States under threat from coal seam gas mining, is spreading to communities around the nation.

Ms Franklin said she was overjoyed with the community's work to take a stance against fracking.

"It's such a beautiful community to work with, and be involved with," she said.

"The community spirit is so bonding and caring of each and

their land. That's such an amazing thing to be a part of.

"Such a positive step is not for just the Mid West, but a positive step for the whole of Western Australia.

"We've been watching from over there decimation that's been happening in the Eastern States and worldwide. In WA we have a chance to say no before it gets here or ramps up.

"Over east they didn't have the opportunity and it absolutely decimated farms and people. For us to be able to have communities embrace this action and say no, they are helping to protect water for all of us in WA."



Communities working together

- 5 Mid-West gasfield free communities and growing
- 96-98% support for gasfield free communities
- Local governments adopting policies to protect land and water





Midwest Shires move to protect land and water from gas fracking

Media Release 25 November 2014

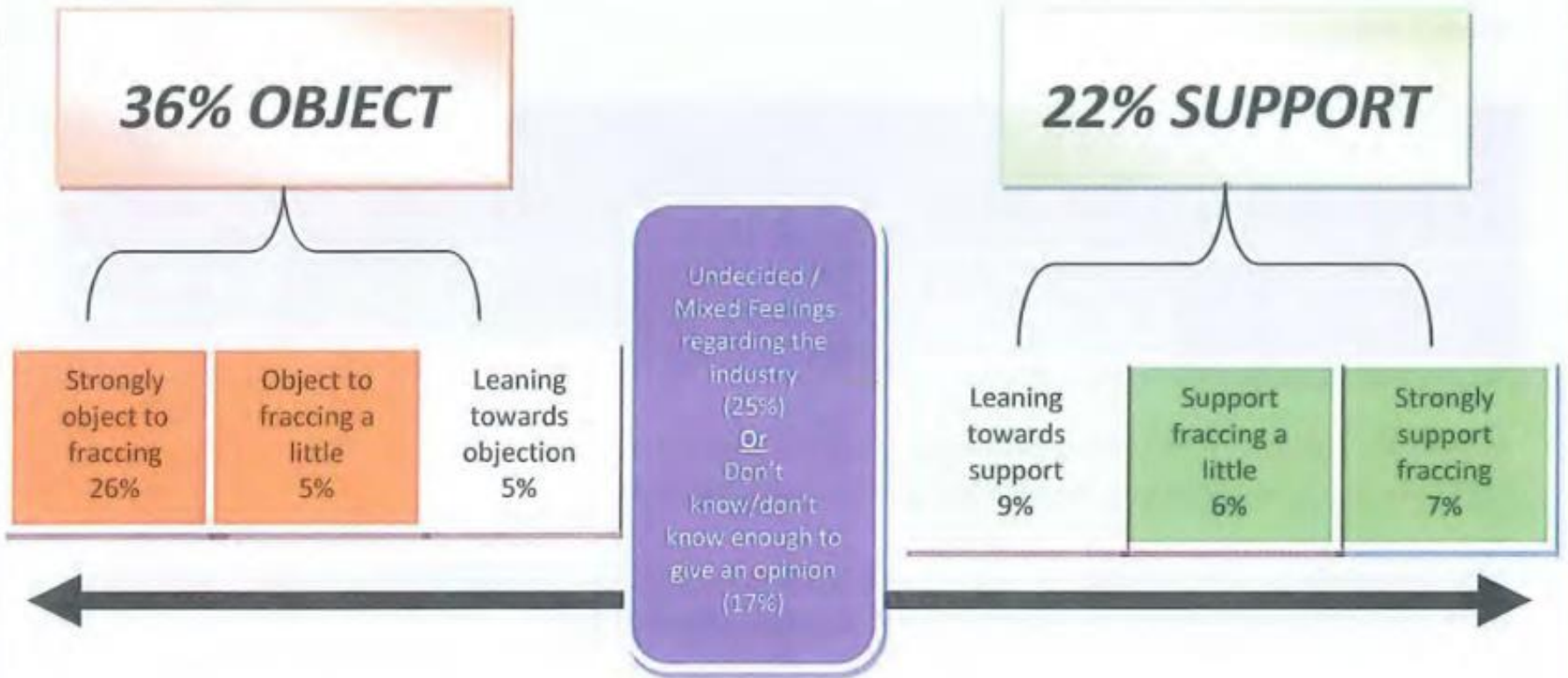
Conservation groups, farmers and community organisations have congratulated two Shires in the WA Midwest for adopting policies designed to protect farming, groundwater and community health from the impacts of gas fracking planned in the region.

Backed by Western Australia's peak environment group, the *Clean Water Healthy Land Alliance* is supporting local communities to protect their land and water from planned gas fracking developments.

Speaking on behalf of the alliance, CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said "Communities across the Midwest are working together to defend their farms and groundwater which is under serious threat from widespread shale gas fracking planned in the region"

Community opposition in WA (DMP Survey)

Figure 6: The Community Spectrum – Feelings regarding fracking



41.0% indicated that they had not heard of fracking so were excluded from this sample

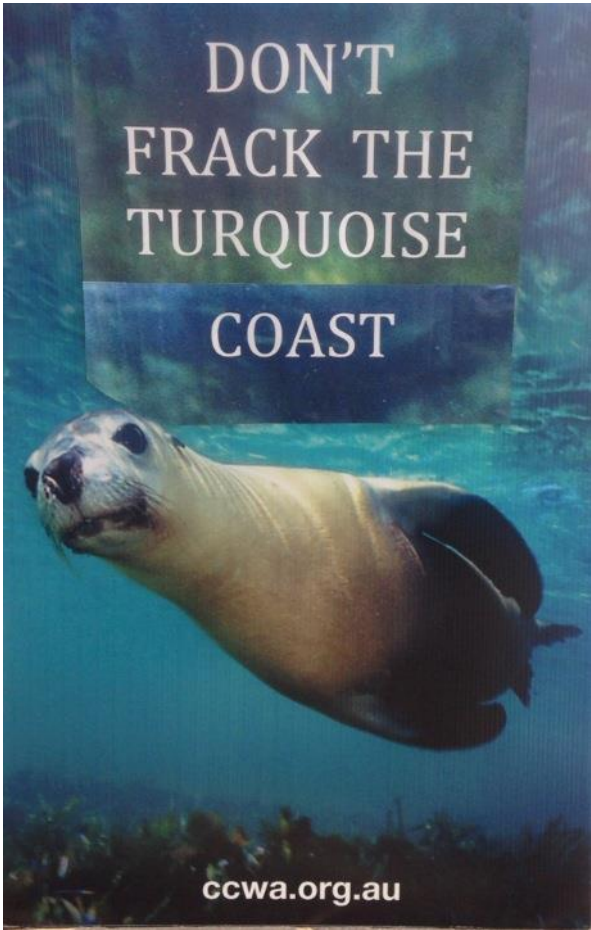
N= 237 weighted sample – WA Overall

Recent Campaign Wins

Alcoa pulls funding from Buru Fracking project in Kimberley after 98% of Traditional Owners object



AWE abandons 'Drover' fracking project after strong community opposition



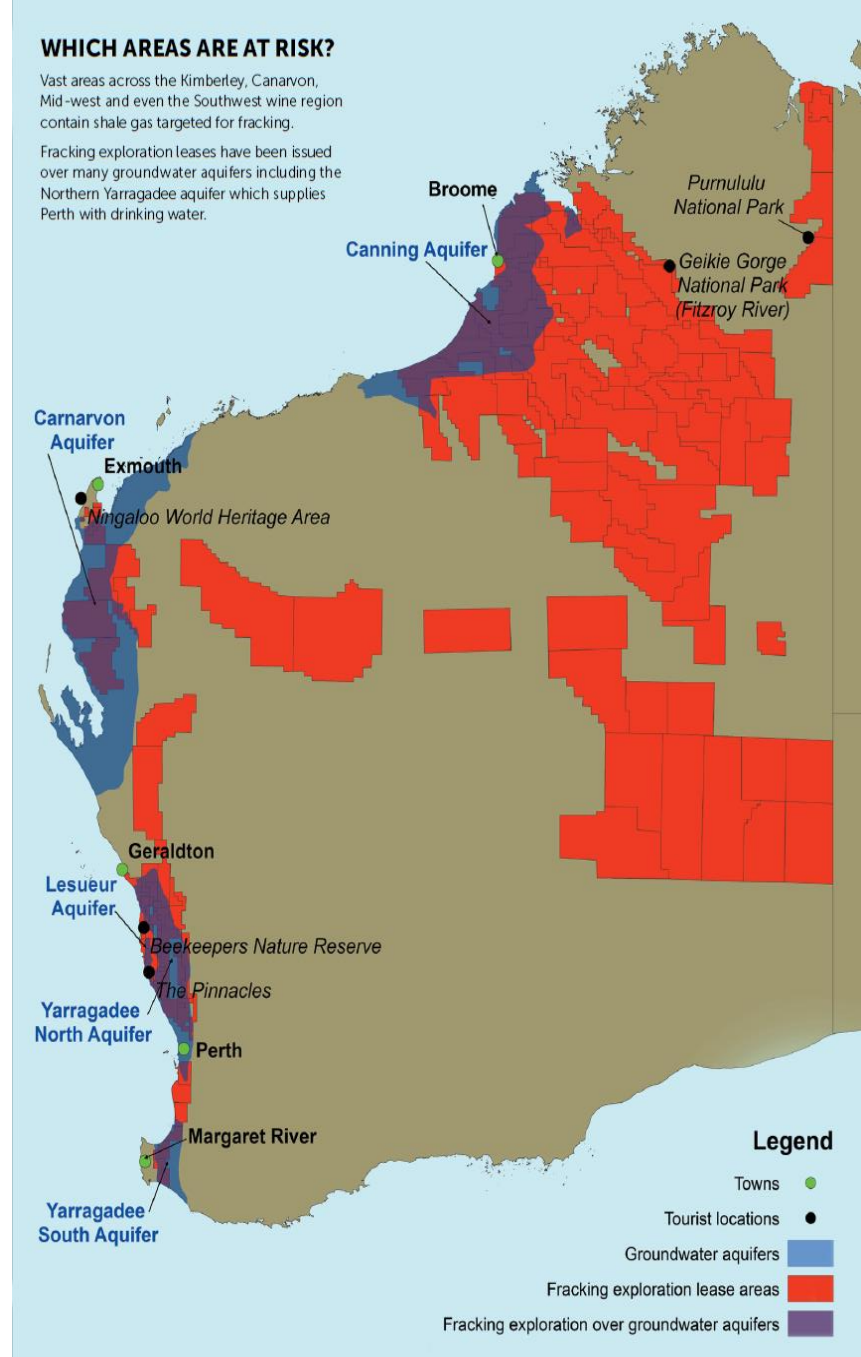
WA Labor adopt policy supporting a moratorium on fracking in WA



Cost of abatement?

\$0.5 - 1M cost of advocacy to keep WA's onshore gas in the ground

Cost of abatement less than 1c per tonne



But.... Protect Peaceful Protest



'DON'T MAKE ME A
CRIMINAL FOR PROTECTING
MY LAND AND WATER FROM
GAS FRACKING'
ROD COPELAND, IRWIN

Don't let the WA State
Government pass laws that
take away our rights to
peaceful protest.

Take action:
protectpeacefulprotest.com

#ProtectProtestWA

