

Myth 1: Fracking is a 60-year-old, safe, well proven technology.

The so called 60 years of fracking refers to vertical, low pressure, low volume fracking (Conventional Gas) and not the horizontal, high volume, high pressure (slickwater) hydraulic fracturing (Unconventional Gas) from clustered, multi-well pads we are seeing today.

Myth 2: The depth of shale & tight gas deposits means fracking is safe.

This is misleading. A number of US studies have implicated shale gas drilling in the contamination of groundwater with heavy metals, salts and gas. Depth is not the only factor deciding whether pollution will occur. If a gas well is faulty, it may be a pollution risk no matter how deep it is. Wells fail due to faulty construction, repeated hydraulic fracturing & corrosion. Data from one US state shows there may be a 6% failure rate of well integrity in the first year after drilling. It is well known that the risk of well integrity is likely to increase through time. Also, the hazardous wastewater that is produced from the fracking process is a major risk to soil and water during storage, transport and disposal.

Myth 3: Small amounts of chemical additives are used in fracking, and these are found in familiar household products.

Chemical additives make up only 0.5% of fracking fluid but this still translates into very large actual quantities. For example, a typical 15 million-litre shale gas fracking operation uses approx. 75,000 litres of chemicals. Many fracking chemicals have not been assessed for their long-term impacts on the environment and human health. Fracking compounds used in Australia have been shown to include many hazardous substances, including: carcinogens, neurotoxins, reproductive toxins, and endocrine disruptors.

Myth 4: The gas industry will create jobs and revive ailing rural economies.

The oil and gas mining industry employs less than 0.2% of the Australian workforce. Most workers are flown in each week from major cities, and very little money is spent in the local economy. Most gas is exported overseas and 84% of mining profits in Australia go to overseas shareholders.

* Sources available at:
http://www.lockthegate.org/about_shale_and_tight_gas

Lock the Gate: Whilst current legislation does not give landholders the right to veto test drilling, a pipeline or full-scale gas production on their property, you can “Lock the Gate” to gas companies as a deterrent to them coming onto your land. In Queensland and NSW many landowners who do so have been successful in keeping companies off their properties. “Lock the Gate” signs available from Limestone Coast Protection Alliance.

“Fractured Country – An Unconventional Invasion”

Get the dvd or watch on You Tube the Australian film. Hold informal get togethers or a local film night to help inform & educate your friends & neighbours.



Join your local action group: This is a coordinated way of working with your neighbours and local community to declare your road and locality a Gasfield Free zone. Find out how you can get involved by contacting:

Limestone Coast Protection Alliance

www.protectlimestonecoast.org.au

Phone: 0459 808 437

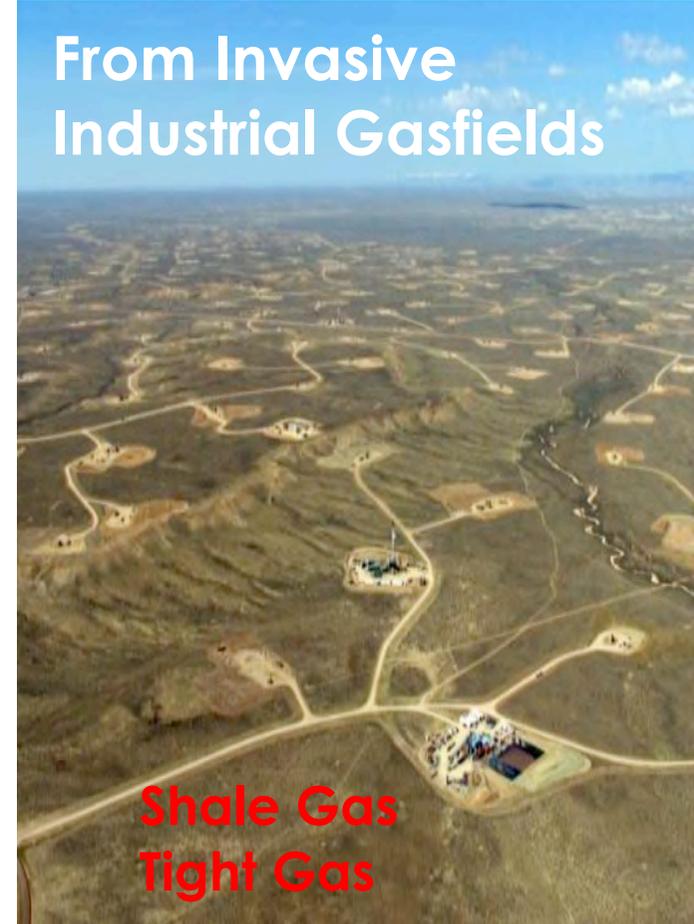
Email: secretary@protectlimestonecoast.org.au



Support **Lock the Gate Alliance**
www.lockthegate.org.au

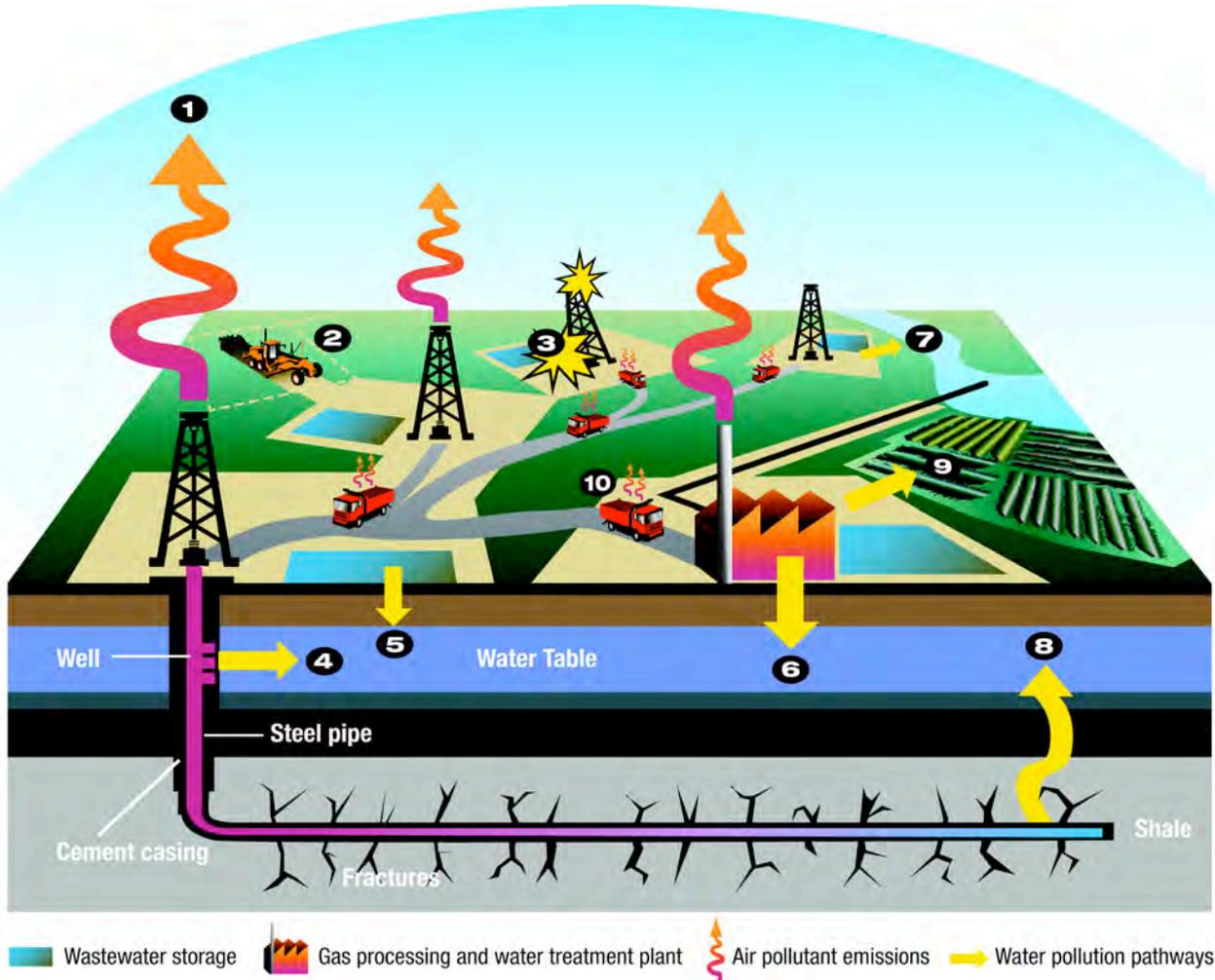


The Limestone Coast UNDER THREAT



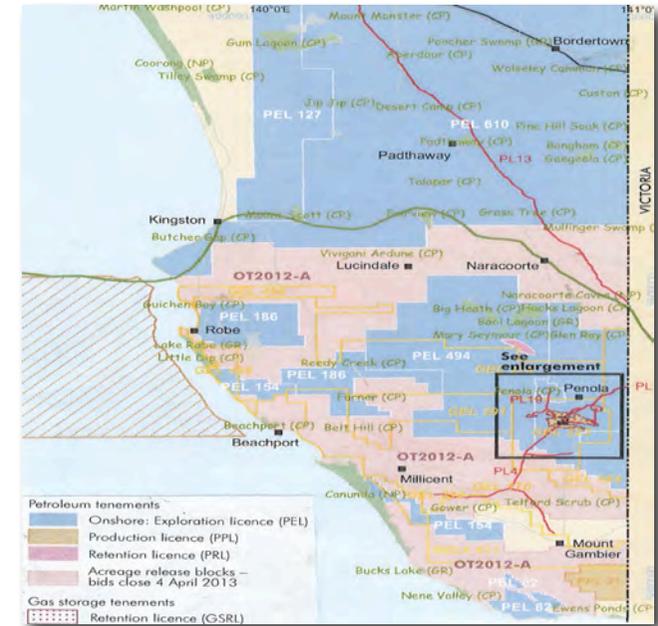
IMPACTS OF UNCONVENTIONAL GAS OPERATIONS

1. Hazardous air pollutants from wells, flaring, holding ponds and other infrastructure.
2. Loss of large areas of farmland & bushland for well pads, pipelines, roads & other infrastructure.
3. Fugitive emissions from leaks in wells, pipes & infrastructure.
4. Contamination of underground water resources due to well casing failure.
5. Surface & ground water contamination from spills, leakage & overflow of toxic wastewater.
6. Soil & groundwater contamination from reinjection of poorly treated wastewater
7. Water depletion from the millions of litres of water used for high volume (slick-water) hydraulic fracturing.
8. Migration of gas and toxic substances into groundwater through natural faults and fracking induced pathways.
9. Soil & crop contamination from air pollution and reuse of poorly treated wastewater on farmland.
10. Twenty-four hour noise, light & air pollution from trucks, drill rigs and machinery.



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

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU



Exploration for Unconventional Gas, Oil and Coal can occur anywhere in the licence areas marked on the map. Companies include Beach Energy, Cooper Energy, Ouro Preto Resources, Somerton Energy, Presidents Petroleum, Rawson Resources and Strike Energy (Kingston Coal project).

If this industry expands in the Limestone Coast with the possibility of **hundreds if not thousands** of gas wells; picturesque rural landscapes and natural areas will be turned into hazardous industrial zones – all for a non-renewable resource that has a lifespan of less than 20 years.

Declining property values, health problems, tourism at risk & loss of Clean and Green image is just to name a few of the potential impacts of Unconventional Gas Mining in the Limestone Coast.

Contamination and depletion of water supplies and alienation of food producing land for gas extraction means that everyone is affected.

Whether you live on a farm, or in a community or in town, this industry may affect you.