



THIRTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT

REPORT 33

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR
WESTERN AUSTRALIA OF HYDRAULIC
FRACTURING FOR UNCONVENTIONAL GAS –
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Presented by Hon Simon O'Brien MLC (Chairman)

August 2013

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Date first appointed:

17 August 2005

Terms of Reference:

The following is an extract from Schedule 1 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders:

“1. Environment and Public Affairs Committee

- 1.1 *An Environment and Public Affairs Committee* is established.
- 1.2 The Committee consists of 5 members.
- 1.3 The functions of the Committee are to inquire into and report on –
 - (a) any public or private policy, practice, scheme, arrangement, or project whose implementation, or intended implementation, within the limits of the State is affecting, or may affect, the environment;
 - (b) any bill referred by the House; and
 - (c) petitions.
- 1.4 The Committee, where relevant and appropriate, is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment.
- 1.5 The Committee may refer a petition to another committee where the subject matter of the petition is within the competence of that committee.
- 1.6 In this order “**environment**” has the meaning assigned to it under section 3(1), (2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.”

Members as at the time of this inquiry:

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC (Chairman)
Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Hon Samantha Rowe MLC

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC (Deputy Chair)
Hon Paul Brown MLC

Staff as at the time of this inquiry:

Irina Lobeto-Ortega (Advisory Officer (Legal))
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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REPORT 33: INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FOR UNCONVENTIONAL GAS – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 REFERENCE AND PROCEDURE

Inquiry pursuant to Standing Order 179

- 1.1 At a regularly conducted meeting of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (**the Committee**) held on 7 August 2013, the Committee resolved to inquire into and report on the implications for Western Australia of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas, including:
- a) how hydraulic fracturing may impact on current and future uses of land;
 - b) the regulation of chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process;
 - c) the use of ground water in the hydraulic fracturing process and the potential for recycling of produced water; and
 - d) the reclamation (rehabilitation) of land that has been hydraulically fractured.
- 1.2 The Committee hereby acquaints the Legislative Council accordingly.



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

Chairman

13 August 2013