



facts



Fracking

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking has spread like wildfire overseas, and has recently hit New Zealand in Taranaki and the Canterbury region will be next.

Fracking is used to extract oil or gas from deep underground. A mixture of water, sand, and chemicals are injected at high pressure into a well, creating a slight earthquake therefore fracturing rock and releasing pockets of oil or gas trapped inside rock formations.

Fracking uses over 20 million litres of water in one frack job. This water can never be used again as it is contaminated with methane gas and over 750 chemicals, many of them highly toxic, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX), hexavalent chromium and hydrochloric acid.

Fracking causes damaging effects such as wastewater problems, contaminated drinking water, air pollution, environmental poisoning, radioactive waste problems, desertification, and earthquakes. As the number of wells and volumes of waste increase, probability of accidental releases of hazardous materials into air and groundwater increases – especially here in quake-prone New Zealand.

Fracking provides our government with royalties of around 5% from extracted gas. The rest of the profit goes to the big oil and gas companies, however the risks are 100% ours.

Fracking is hugely beneficial to the oil and gas industry. We try to ensure our fact sheets are balanced, but that's about the only 'up side'

to fracking we can find. Reports highlighting the safety of fracking are produced by the fracking industry, and are not particularly reliable.

Fracking has been deemed safe because it takes place thousand of metres away from fresh water aquifers. However at the Manutahi wells in South Taranaki the distance between fresh water and where fracking took place was only 257 metres.

Fracking in New Zealand has no specific regulations. In 1937 the government took ownership of all oil, gas, gold and uranium through the Crown Minerals Act. The government has opened up vast blocks of land for oil/gas extraction with no rules to safeguard our water, land and air.

TAG Oil is prospecting for onshore gas & oil in East Coast and Hawkes Bay. Other companies are prospecting in the Waikato, King Country, Northland, Bay of Plenty, Wairarapa and other parts of both the North and South Islands.

Fracking is new to New Zealand so we are yet to witness for ourselves the damaging affect fracking will have on our country. Other countries, like France for example, have banned fracking totally in their country since 2011. Some parts of the USA have banned fracking e.g: New York, New Jersey, Buffalo, Baldwin Borough and Morgantown city.

We think fracking effects us all. We need to tell the government we don't want fracking here in Aotearoa. Our country relies on its ocean,

rivers and lakes we don't want them polluted and put at risk in this way. The government has issued permits in the Canterbury region – given the seismic instability of this area it seems like an extraordinarily bad idea.

Websites:

- climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com
- www.3news.co.nz/Oil-drilling-opponents-speak-out/tabid/367/articleID/232210/Default.aspx
- www.stuff.co.nz/environment/6031947/Report-gives-fracking-all-clear
- www.facebook.com/groups/saynotofrackinganddrillingsouthisland/
- www.petitiononline.co.nz/petition/against-hydraulic-fracturing-in-100-pure-nz/1314

Below is a map showing where fracking will be taking place in the South Island the red is still pending approval and the green area has been authorised.

