

Submission to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment: Investigation into Hydraulic Fracturing in New Zealand

By [Climate Justice Taranaki](#), 10 April 2014 – Fourth Submission

In this submission, Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT) reaffirms our call for an outright ban on fracking in New Zealand (NZ) and an urgent transition strategy to renewable energies and [green economy](#) (low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive).

We reiterate our concerns with the rapid expansion of oil and gas exploration and extraction, made possible by fracking. Our concerns are:

- Unprecedented climate change impacts, vulnerability on the NZ and global scales and injustice to future generations ([IPCC 5th report, 2014](#)).
- The far-reaching environmental impacts from oil and gas related discharges onto land and into tributaries ([CJT 3rd submission, 3 Nov 2013](#)).
- The wide-ranging health impacts on local residents from air pollution, water and soil contamination and stress, and the lack of research and assessment in this area in NZ ([McKenzie et al, 2014](#); [Kassotis et al, 2013](#)).
- The heightened risks of damaging earthquakes induced and/or triggered by deepwell injection and fracking ([CJT media release, 1 April 2014](#)).
- The inadequate regulatory, monitoring and management regime on the industry, resulting in frequent incidents and breaches of consent conditions, endangering people and the environment ([3 News, 7 April 2014](#); [CJT media release, 18 March 2014](#)).
- The costs for not transitioning off fossil fuels now and the loss of opportunities in building a just and sustainable world ([Royal Society of NZ, March 2014](#); [Greenpeace NZ, 2013](#)).