

To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Cc: [Phil Walcott](#)
Subject: Inquiry submission
Date: Monday, 6 March 2017 3:56:16 PM

Good afternoon,

Please acknowledge receipt of the submission below into the current inquiry.

You will no doubt be in receipt of several submissions that comprehensively detail the concerns a number of eminently qualified people who are able to supply research documents and the like to support their position calling for a NT-wide ban on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) unconventional shale gas. I don't seek to replicate any of those studies and findings here as you already have that data and evidence.

As a strong proponent of renewable energy options (and in particular solar power in Central Australia), I believe that the issue can be resolved as we segue away from fossil fuels and adopt renewable targets. The employment opportunities that will be derived via technological advances in these areas into the future can help with sustaining as well as increasing our population growth.

Through encouraging strategic partnerships between Charles Darwin University (CDU), Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA), Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) and Bachelor Institute of Tertiary Education (BITE), researchers and scientists from around the world could come here to help establish Alice Springs as a Solar Centre of Excellence (already announced by the Chief Minister in his address to the NT Parliament in October, 2016). Those staff generally bring families with them, rent or purchase properties, use supermarkets, schools, social clubs, petrol stations etc. so the economic boost to our town and region is amplified. Local employment options are also enhanced in the construction and maintenance industries.

Clearly, we already have the will and the determination to grow our capacity in creating a world recognised safe and sustainable future that nurtures the benefits of renewable energy while reducing the dangerous footprint of a fossil-fuel industry mired in last millennium technology and practices.

My thanks for your time.

Phil Walcott
Counselling Psychologist
Alice Springs



