

From: Yolande
To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Subject: Feedback on the background and issues paper
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It is not only the aboriginal people who have a deep connection to this land, but all who choose to live here.

Central Australians love this land and its striking and arid beauty. The background and issues paper touches on the potential risks posed to the landscape through hydraulic fracturing: there is mention of the risk to ecosystems and biodiversity through groundwater contamination and destruction of the land; there is mention of the risk to the amenity values of the national parks and the rangelands of this area; there is mention of the risk that fracking will increase the burden of climate change and in turn, the effect this could have on the land we call our home.

But none of these risks quite encapsulate the way fracking undermines and threatens our relationship with this land.

This land is what sustains Central Australians. We live in extreme isolation; we don't spend our weekends shopping or wine tasting. We spend our weekends camping, hiking, swimming and immersing ourselves in mother nature. This land is the source of our creativity; enter into any gallery around town and I guarantee you most, if not all, of the artwork is inspired by this land: the red dirt, expansive plains, the ghostly fingers of the gum trees and the mountains that cradle us. It is this land that brings us together. Look around you the next time the Todd River flows: when else do you see old and young, black and white, all delighting as one? We are divided over many things, but the land brings us together. If this land is damaged, the social and emotional well being of Central Australian's will also be in grave danger.

We have learnt that like all strong and healthy relationships, the one we have with this land must be reciprocal and sustainable. There are so many innovative ways that Central Australians are giving back to this land. One example is the Solar Energy Program which has turned the Alice Springs Airport into one of Australia's most sustainable and forward thinking airports. The Araluen Arts Centre and the Aquatic and Leisure Centre are also completely solar powered. In order to reduce the carbon footprint of our food miles, Central Australians have come up with Food for Alice, a food distribution project which through the purchase of local gardeners excess produce offers the community an alternative to supermarket goods. There are countless other creative and thoughtful ways

that Central Australians seek to make life in the desert more sustainable. Bringing hydraulic fracturing into the Northern Territory, which has no vision for long term sustainability, and has the potential to redirect resources away from continuing the development of technologies around renewable energy, would therefore completely undermine the relationship between Central Australians and this land we call home.

Thank you for your time.