

**From:** Joseph Costelloe  
**To:** [fracking inquiry](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Have your say comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, 25 April 2017 10:24:56 AM

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To whom it may concern

I am an Origin Energy ex-employee.

I was employed in a full-time role as a Senior/Lead Instrument and Electrical Draftsperson in Brisbane for the Upstream Gas and then Intergrated Gas Business Units from September 2014 to December 2015.

While employed there I sustained a serious psychological injury within the first 6 months of my employment, which I still receive counselling and medication for today.

I had worked previously for many businesses in many varied roles in my 23 years of full time employment without any mental health concerns, let alone being diagnosed with a psychological injury. I had a total of 6 months off work due to this illness and I made 2 unsuccessful attempts to return to work, before resigning due to my poor mental health.

Quite unbelievably, to date I have been denied 2 workers compensation claims for these injuries; Essentially due to Origin Energy management engaging in insurance fraud (see email below) and subterfuge.

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On Friday, March 17, 2017, 1:23 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your email.

I confirm the Prosecution Services unit is a completely separate unit to both the Review unit and Appeals unit. I also confirm that the decision made regarding whether it is appropriate to pursue a prosecution is not affected by the outcome and/or status of your review application or your appeal.

I am unable to give you an exact timeframe for a final outcome as there are multiple layers in the approval process for decisions regarding whether or not prosecutions should be undertaken.

However, I would expect a decision to have been made within the next month.

You will be formally notified of this decision once it has been finalised.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Prosecution Services  
Office of Industrial Relations  
[REDACTED]

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I claim that the Business Units I was part of have a culture of unchecked unlawful behaviours. These include, deliberate breaches of employment contracts, on-mass engineering drawing non-compliance, bullying and negligence by all levels of management and being derelict in there duty of care owed to it's employees.

If those torts were not bad enough that is not the worst of the Origin Energy management modus operandi that I experienced. When I raised complaints through the internal complaint procedure I was initially fobbed off and then victimised. Further complaints were made, but everything was covered-up. No investigations occurred.

Since my depature from this company 18 months ago and through my own research and reaching out to other ex-employees I have discovered just how widespread this rotten culture is.

What I can confirm from my research is that approximately 14 claims for psychological injuries have been lodged over a recent 2 year period by Qld Origin Energy employees - only 2 were supported by Origin Energy.

There have also been several unfair dismissal claims that whistleblower Sally McDow has advised me of since the start of 2016. Most of these were either settled by conciliation or were dropped by the dismissed employee when confronted with the dirty tactics of Origin Energy legal representatives.

In addition to these alarming matters I personally know of 3 ex-employees who attempted suicide within the last 2 years. Each of these people claimed that their employment with Origin Energy was the major contributing factor.

Of course there is also the well-publicised tragic story of George Bender, another stakeholder in Origin Energy operations whose rights and health were of the lowest priority for this company. I have heard (second-hand) other reports of landowners complaining of the same negligence.

Yet, the spin that comes out of this company tells a different story. How is this so?

The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from this information is that Origin Energy lie. They consider people and the truth obstacles that need to be bypassed, or if necessary stream rolled in the name of power and profits.

While my submission is mostly with regard to internal machination of Origin Energy I appreciate that the Onshore Unconventional Gas Industry is comprised of several other companies and joint venture arrangements. I am not in a position to make comment about the other companies.

However, I would like to share my thoughts on the environmental impact of the Onshore Unconventional Gas industry as a whole. This is a bow that can easily be drawn to encapsulate an industry wide culture.

Through the reporting by Government senior staffer whistleblower Simone Marsh, various investigative journalism articles and Peter Garrett's memoirs, the mishandling of and unnecessary expedience that was applied by relevant government environment departments in granting approvals raises grave concerns about the birth of the Queensland CSG-LNG projects. The signing of a \$5b gas deal with China pre-dating these approvals belies belief.

Even if there was minimal risk of harm to flora, fauna and mankind from gas mining and operations (which is clearly not the case-there is catastrophic risk), as a matter of due diligence and good governance the companies involved must ensure the industry is having no negative effect; a low probability is not an acceptable level of risk when dealing with our future. Due diligence and complete risk assessments have to be performed before anything else. Even that is not enough. Only via continued monitoring by honest, responsible companies and independent agencies can good governance be said to exist.

Ask the landowners from Qld if they believe this basic right has been afforded them. I also take note of the re-emergence of Black Lung disease. Look how serious the ramifications can be by not adhering to due diligence and good governance.

The bottom line is that the corporations extolling the virtues of the Onshore Unconventional Gas industry are only interested in their own bottom line.

What they say and write can not be trusted. You must see through their tainted perspective and skewed priorities.

I implore the NT government to not repeat the mistakes of other greedy governments.

Do not allow this industry a foothold into your beautiful state.

Yours truthfully  
Joseph Patrick Costelloe

