

From: Lachlan Bestic
To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing
Date: Monday, 1 May 2017 8:09:01 PM

Dear Panel

My name is Lachlan Bestic, and I submit the following for your review into the use of unconventional gas and the use of hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory.

My personal experience, as an engineer with experience in underground and open cut mining and the oil and gas industries, is that many people respect and understand that professional expertise helps when members of the public are trying to understand issues related to industry and how it relates to them. Many, many people have asked me this simple question, knowing that I have experience in the resources sector: "Do you believe that fracking is safe?"

They do not mean "Do you believe that fracking is absolutely safe?" as they intuitively understand that everything that we do after we get out of bed in the morning has risks, some more significant than others.

I believe that fracking can be and is carried out safely. That belief is based on an appreciation that there are safe methods available, there are suitable controls available (both procedural and regulatory) and there are situations where fracking is suitable, taking into account aspects such as the geological conditions and proximity to local infrastructure. As an obvious comment, fracking 50m below the surface near houses or the water table is going to have different risks to fracking 1000m or 2000m below the surface in a remote situation, particularly where the aquifers are hundreds of metres away in terms of vertical separation.

However, safety is directly related to good management. Where regulation of an industry is concerned, a first point is to expect professionals in the industry who are skilled, capable and trained, with suitable systems to manage the what is being done. I would hope that the panel, when looking at fracking in other jurisdictions, identifies situations where it is being carried out well (and those where there may be issues) and specifically seeks to identify and honour the professionals contributing to good practice.

Yours sincerely

Lachlan Bestic

Contact details:

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