

From: Tinapple
To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Subject: Fracking Inquiry
Date: Friday, 28 April 2017 1:19:50 PM

Dear Panel

I submit the following for your review into the use of unconventional gas and the use of hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory.

There have been many Inquiries on this and similar subjects around the world and in Australia in recent times. Virtually all credible (non political) Inquiries have arrived at similar conclusions, in that exploring for and developing gas and oil from unconventional sources (shale) with the use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is unlikely to pose any significant risk to groundwater (aquifers) or to human health, providing appropriate robust regulations (including environmental aspects) are in place, which are adhered to and enforced, such that the risk is acceptable and as low as reasonably practical (ALARP).

I am a retired regulator, having spent thirty years regulating oil and gas activities including 13 years in the Northern Territory and 17 in Western Australia. From the start of oil and gas operations in Western Australia on the order of 750 fracking operations have been carried out, without damage to aquifers or human health. I believe that using current technology, exploration and development of unconventional oil and gas can be regulated with even less risk. Exploration and development of unconventional oil and gas technology is evolving quickly. Many of the early problems from other parts of Australia and the world have been solved, for example, with the chemical additives used.

It is on this basis that I urge the Panel to adopt a factual and evidence based approach toward assessing the potential risks regarding the exploration for and the development of unconventional gas and oil, and the use of hydraulic fracturing to enhance its production, based on **current technology**, providing at all times, there is a **robust regulatory regime** which through strong enforcement enables risks to be reduced to be ALARP. Regulators need to be capable and experienced to be able to “stand toe to toe with operators” and insure that any risks are minimized and yet not cause interminable delays in approvals.

Yours sincerely

W L Tinapple

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