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Inquiry -9<sup>th</sup> August -Katherine -2017

Dear Professor Pepper

Please see improved referencing for my submission as requested.  
I have upgraded for your perusal.

I am not against the whole of the hydrocarbon industry as was suggested by Panal inquirer, I am against the manipulations of an invasive Shale gas fracking industry. An industry that lulls people into a false security of minimum well pads, that the use of chemicals are constantly reduced to kitchen items- when they are not!. The future of monitoring and evaluations for decommissioned wells are well beyond any gurantees, especially in the Territory which is notorious for a regime of cowboy lack of regulations.

Decades of records of water monitoring by a Water Department in the Northern Territory , which is traditionally one of the first departments established in the Northern Territory and was instigated by South Australia because of the concerns of naturally occurring poisonous substances such as arsenic and other chemicals which were often found around bores and were poisoning waterholes. Water monitored and evaluated because it is the most important resource in this country! Because these chemicals alone were poisoning the water!

The bigger picture of course is where is this all going? Is there another return to coal again for example? Secret dealings and sensitivity around business competition leaves the average punter just wondering about price fluctuations, lack, glut of gas resources and who is gaining in business from all the waste that is generated by this industry. Halliburton? DU ( depleted uranium) is a by product of the waste water used in weapon production.

There are more questions than answers and there is clearly a cavalier and arrogant attitude towards those who oppose the secrecy and expose the hidden accidents/spills happening in this country today.

Moreover, the ultimate question is why are we not investing more in renewables?? We should be incentivizing renewables and investing in renewables. What will we risk? What will our landscape above and below look like? #waterislife

**1.But Origins's manager of oil and gas operations, Paul Zealand, said BTEX was not being used as a fracking fluid.**

***"This is a real surprise to us because we have been using chemicals which are free of BTEX", Mr Zealand said***

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/toxins-found-at-third-site-as-fracking-fears-build-20101118-17zfv.htm>

**Toxins found at third site as fracking fears build**

Cubby, Ben ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

Sydney Morning Herald – Nov 19 2010

**Origin stops coal seam gas drilling after chemicals found in water**

[www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au) - Oct 21 2010

Cubby, Ben ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

## **2. Top Water quality ideal for fracking process**

**Hydraulic Fracturing Water Usage-fracfocus.org FracFocus Chemical Disclosure Registry**

Water and sand can make up more than 99.5% of the fluid used to hydraulically fracture a well. Water acts as the primary carrier fluid in hydraulic fracturing. Because the multi-stage fracturing of a single horizontal shale gas well can use several million gallons of water, it is critical that large quantities of relatively fresh water be available. ***The quality of the water is very important because impurities can reduce the efficiency of the additives used in the process***

## **3 Social License**

**It was suggested that I may not exert the same regime around demanding a Social license for pastoralists as I have demanded for Shale gas and I can not give my FREE PRIOR and INFORMED consent to Shale gas hydraulic Fracking industry .**

There certainly is a cosy arrangement it would seem with Government as to the taxation of pastoralists here in NT. Certainly the largest green house emissions from Agriculture in Nt.

While mostly vegetarian; I was not going to start commiserating with the panel around methane levels of the pastoralist industry and make myself more of a target as to my personal ethics around animal welfare, river bank erosion, land clearing, chemicals, use of 1080, water quality and green house gases ! However my water quality is not threatened by slick water, exploding rocks, deep down with ancient aquifers and chemical reactions that no one can guarantee nor inspire you with their sound knowledge. We stakeholders are expected to blindly believe their spin. Why

add to the risk of increasing emissions? We have just had the hottest July ion record!.

It is concerning the buying up of pastoralist's land by Gina Rinehart and her passion for fracking in NT with our deposed previous Chief Minister Adam Giles now working for her in cahoots with APPEA.

**NT 13,500 total emissions 2005- 1% emissions overall Australia.envirnorth.com**

### **1. Toxicity**

Today Katherine will have a water treatment replacement. Built in the States and yet will only be a band aid "filtering" the contamination of PFASS.

We were told by the same Government and Dept of Defence that everything was below recommended safe levels. We were safe to drink it. Those closer to the Tindal RAAF base have water delivered to them. Does that sound safe and secure? We will now have water restrictions etc

The Shale gas hydraulic fracturing industry meanwhile will be demanding more and more water. You can not see this disaster in isolation as to what the people of Katherine are facing. 180 kms south is the Beetaloo sub basin

There the fracking industry is happy to inject and extract through the use of thousand of litres of slick water down a well. More chemicals than PFASS!!!

**So I was challenged on the chemical ethylen glycol (EG), by a panel inquirer who described it as just another chemical that you may find in your coolant ( radiator fluids)**

*"This is a toxic chemical"* Sam Phelen Veteranian NT . Inquiry Aug 9 2017

Would our Inquirer be content to make his grandson drink this sweet chemical?

Many children present to hospital ingesting by mistake.

Prompt recognition and treatment of patients intoxicated with this substance can reduce morbidity and mortality associated with these alcohols.

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/814701-overview>

It is fatal in animals. It is a chemical by choice for SUICIDE

<https://www.msdivetmanual.com/toxicology/ethylene-glycol-toxicity/overview-of-ethylene-glycol-toxicity>

Thank you for all the work you are doing. Sadly and with disbelief , I feel we demonstrate our one last democratic process left for us and that will be to seeking a referendum on this matter.

Your intelligent, wise and considered recommendations will make no difference.

Warm Regards  
Carol Randall