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SUBMISSION TO THE SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

5/2/2018

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I am a Mother and a Grandmother who has lived in the Territory virtually all my life and I am horrified at the probability of the living hell that our families will be left to deal with in in the aftermath of hydraulic fracturing being allowed in the Northern Territory.

*I am also a horticulturist and have studied Conservation and land management.*  
There is strong evidence from all countries in the world that have allowed this type of mining that poor health, water contamination, pollution and environmental degradation has occurred as a direct result. We have already seen the result of this type of mining in Queensland where large tracts of land have been destroyed and the Condamine River is bubbling with methane gas.

We are dependent on our groundwater for our survival. To risk this precious resource, the health and future of the citizens of the Northern Territory, and our pastoral and tourism industries for the very short term ,and questionable financial gain that hydraulic fracturing would provide would not only be extremely foolish but absolutely criminal.

*PTO. →*

There is a lack of data and understanding of the effects of climate change on our ground water, the variability of current and future rain fall amounts, and the ground water systems of the Northern Territory are also not fully understood. And though this panel has identified the risks to surface and ground water that could occur as a result of hydraulic fracturing, the level of those risks or how to fully mitigate them have not been determined. *in the draft final report.*

The mining industry in the Northern Territory has a history of mishaps, environmental degradation and a lack responsibility taken for damage done once the sought after materials have been depleted. According to the example given within the recommendations of this panel, the monitoring of these proposed wells should be undertaken every two years for a period of ten years, and then every five years thereafter. If contamination of ground water occurs between the two years of testing it will be too late to put in place any measures to protect the health of those affected or prevent the environmental damage that will result, and indeed there seems to be no clear measures to prevent this damage should a leak occur.

Also in question is how often, if at all, these wells will be inspected in years to come. Once the gas has been extracted who will be monitoring these wells for damage in 30 , 40 or 50 years? Not the mining companies that's for sure. They will be long gone.

The amounts of water needed to carry out hydraulic fracking operations are phenomenal and it has not as yet been made clear how the contaminated water and chemical waste that are the by-

products of this kind of operation will be disposed of. The transportation of this waste on our roads poses yet another risk.

The panel imply within the report that the majority of people in the Northern Territory are ok with fracking. This assumption was based on a report by the CSIRO which found that about 57% of Territorians supported extractive mining. This is not reflective of the opinion of Territorians towards hydraulic fracking as extractive mining describes all mining, and whilst many Territorians may, for example, be supportive of open cut mining and such there are clearly many Territorians who are absolutely opposed to hydraulic fracturing as has been demonstrated by the many who have attended and voiced their concerns at forums, and the record numbers that have attended protests against this proposed mining practice.

It would be interesting to see how many would vote to allow hydraulic fracturing if a referendum was held. I'm pretty confident that sanity would prevail if we were able to put this matter to the vote.

It is obvious that our Government cannot be trusted to be transparent in regard to this proposed method of mining as they are already advertising for overseas investors into onshore gas mining in the Northern Territory, which makes a mockery of the moratorium and shows that they have little concern or consideration for the rights and opinions of the people they are supposed to be representing and who's interests they are supposed to be safe guarding.

We can't drink money and it won't fix the problems that can, and in all likelihood will occur if this form of mining is allowed. When our ground water is contaminated and large areas of our environment are destroyed forever as a result of this proposed method of mining being allowed our Government will ultimately be responsible for the genocide and displacement of thousands of Territorians.

Our Chief Minister, Mr Gunner must listen to the overwhelming majority of Territorians who want to protect our water and environment for future generations and ban hydraulic fracking from the Northern Territory.