

fracking inquiry

From: Lori Martin <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 February 2018 2:12 PM
To: fracking inquiry
Cc: chief.minister at nt.gov.au; minister.fyles at nt.gov.au; minister.vowles at nt.gov.au; minister.moss at nt.gov.au
Subject: Written submission on the NT Fracking Inquiry draft Final Report

Dear Justice Pepper and Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback on the draft Final Report of the NT Fracking Inquiry.

I appreciate that the Panel's report makes many important recommendations in the face of the 115 risks identified.

The Panel has made 19 recommendations relating to the NT's water resources. The draft report acknowledges that risks remain, even with these recommendations.

Groundwater is critical in the Northern Territory. It is allocated for our residential needs, existing industries and environmental flows. Many high yielding aquifers within the NT are close to their full allocation already. Many are under pressure from resource development (page 105).

The draft Final Report outlines significant knowledge gaps for groundwater, biodiversity, landscape and health impacts. These gaps need to be rectified and baseline studies completed. Appropriate no go areas must be legislated and in place before exploration fracking should be considered.

Many exploration activities are virtually identical to production activities. Chemical use, high pressure hydraulic fracturing through aquifers, water use and associated risks are involved. Any regulatory changes should apply to all stages of gas development.

In the NT there is a saying, "Once you frack you can't go back." Exploration fracking is no different. The studies, legal improvements and no-go zones suggested by the panel are critical. They must be actioned before any further fracking exploration.

Let's not wait until the production phase to put in place critical new regulations and laws. We must avoid delays to the protection of the Northern Territory's water, landscapes and people.

Time and time again, mining companies have not fully complied with regulations, have covered up accidents and left their work sites in a big mess. I have no confidence that this will change

Thank you for considering my feedback on this critical matter for the future of the Northern Territory.

Yours sincerely, Lori M Edith, Northern Territory, 0852, Australia

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