

fracking inquiry

From: Sandra Bowden <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 February 2018 2:45 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: NT Fracking Inquiry draft Final Report -sumission

Dear Justice Pepper and Panel,

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

In the NT there is a saying, "ONCE YOU FRACK, YOU CAN'T GO BACK! Exploration fracking is no different. 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.

The draft Final Report outlines significant knowledge gaps for groundwater, biodiversity, landscape and health impacts. These studies, as well as no-go zones and legal improvements for protection of landscapes and peoples, as suggested by the panel, must be actioned before any further fracking exploration!

Waiting until the production phase to put in place critical new regulations and laws will be too late to protect the Northern Territory's critical groundwater, The draft report acknowledges that risks remain, even with its 19 recommendations.

Therefore, it is critical that BEFORE EXPLORATION fracking takes place, the board's recommendations must be improved and implemented – in particular, the following:

Recommendation 5.1 (Enforceable code of practice for abandonment of onshore gas wells)

Recommendation 5.6 (Wastewater management framework)

Recommendation 7.1 (Water Act amended for shale extraction licence and payment for water)

Recommendation 7.4 (Strategic regional environmental and baseline assessment (SREBA), including a regional groundwater model, be developed and undertaken)

Recommendation 8.4 (Fire management plan and 10 year baseline assessment)

Recommendation 9.2 (Code of practice be developed and implemented for monitoring, detection and reporting of methane emissions)

Recommendation 10.1 (Human Health Risk Assessment prepared and approved)

Recommendation 12.11 (Social impact management plan) This recommendation should also be extended to allow for the legal right to say 'no' to fracking.

Recommendation 14.1 (Design and implement a full cost recovery system for fracking regulation)

Recommendation 14.16 (Legislation to regulate seismic surveys, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, and well abandonment)

Recommendation 14.18 (Fit and proper person test)

Recommendation 15.1 (Strategic regional environmental and baseline assessment (SREBA) undertaken and no go zones implemented)

The draft Final Report also shows Origin energy identified exploration and appraisal could include 8-16 wells and 24-48 wells for delineation. So Origin alone could drill and frack up to 64 wells, all before critical improvements are made to the regulations. With fracking companies combined, there could be over a hundred fracked gas wells across the NT even before production, without key law changes or baseline studies complete.

I support the new regulations and legislation required to try and protect landholders and water. However, that work needs to happen BEFORE the oil and gas industry is permitted to start fracking in the Northern Territory again.

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

Yours sincerely, Sandra Bowden Fannie Bay, Northern Territory, 0820, Australia

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