

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Department of Primary Industry and
Resources Submission #295

Mr Alister Trier
Chief Executive Officer
Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources
GPO Box 3000
Darwin NT 0801

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Trier

RE: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INQUIRY – INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory (the Inquiry)*, which was established by the Northern Territory Government under the *Inquiries Act 1945 (NT)* in late 2016 to investigate the impacts and risks of hydraulic fracturing of onshore shale gas reservoirs and associated activities on the environmental, social, economic and cultural conditions in the Northern Territory.

I also refer to the submission made by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (**DPIR**) to the Inquiry. In particular, I refer to the section of the submission relating to Environmental Rehabilitation Securities. I request that you consider and respond to the following queries.

1. Page 24 of the submission describes the requirement for an interest holder to provide a \$10,000 security for “compliance with the Act”. This is a requirement under section 79 of the Act.

Page 34 of the submission discusses the requirement for an Environmental Rehabilitation Security. Please describe the statutory basis, if any, of the Environmental Rehabilitation Security.

2. Please advise whether the DPIR makes the amount of the Environmental Rehabilitation Security for each interest holder publicly available.

3. Please advise the matters that are taken into account by DPIR officers when deciding whether or not the amount of the Environmental Rehabilitation Security is “acceptable”? Is there any statutory requirement for the Minister to consider these matters?

I respectfully request a response by 19 June 2017.

Yours sincerely



THE HON JUSTICE RACHEL PEPPER
Chair

13 June 2017