

## fracking inquiry

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**From:** Warwick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 January 2018 3:05 PM  
**To:** fracking inquiry  
**Subject:** Draft SIA Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Coffey report.

Whilst I agree with the overall thrust of the report recommendations if some sort of "settlement" is seen as desirable, I disagree strongly with basis of those recommendations and the implied assumption that a "settlement" is necessary or indeed desirable.

These gas resources are an asset of the Commonwealth first and the Territory second. As you are aware the Federal Parliament has the power to pass laws for the Territory and to revoke Territory decisions if it is thought in the national interest. The NT is not a sovereign state and relies on the rest of Australia to subsidise its existence via tax transfers and is not a financially viable entity in its own right.

Development of these gas resources is one possible means of it eventually attaining economic sovereignty and thus eventually statehood.

In the meantime it is not in Australians interest that any one group of people should receive any "economic settlement" for exercising a right that they do not have and which is not afforded to other Australians. I think the structures recommended are designed to develop direct wealth transfers to communities who will in any event benefit from what is essentially a very benign activity which involves just drilling some hole and squirting water into them at high pressure. The communities will benefit from jobs created in the extraction of this gas which the rest of Australia desperately needs.

Please, let's just get on and approve and develop one field and see how it goes. If is the oppenents worst fears are realised then we can review things. Where this is done elsewhere in the world the outcomes have been incredibly positive.

*Regards*

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