

fracking inquiry

From: Graham Kirby <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 9 February 2018 1:44 PM
To: fracking inquiry
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Fyles; Minister Vowles; Minister Moss
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 live in Nightcliff. Did you know that Ludmilla Creek, Rapid Creek and Buffalo Creek in the City of Darwin are all contaminated with government signs warning of the dangers of fishing, crabbing and collecting shell fish. If we cannot ensure our local creeks are unpolluted what chance is there to protect the thousands of waterways under threat in the hinterland of the Northern Territory?

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.

Origin alone could drill and frack up to 64 wells across their tenement, all before critical improvements are made to the regulations.

With fracking companies combined, we could have a situation in the NT where there are over a hundred fracked gas wells across the landscape. That's all before production, without key law changes or baseline studies complete.

Critical studies identifying no go zones will difficult to achieve in an area already littered with fracked gas exploration wells.

I support the swath of 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.

The below critical recommendations must be improved and work completed BEFORE EXPLORATION fracking takes place.

In the NT there is a saying, "Once you frack you can't go back." Exploration fracking is no different. An infrastructure of pipelines and export terminals that are too big to fail are just what Australia does not need. 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.

Finally, Australia's record of Gas management is a farce. I believe Australians interests should far outweigh the interests of multinational fossil fuel interests and believe renewable energy would be a much more sensible investment and would produce jobs for local people and businesses.

Thank you for considering my feedback on this critical matter for the future of the Northern Territory. Yours sincerely, Graham Kirby Nightcliff, Northern Territory, 0810, Australia

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