

From: Tony Ryan
To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Subject: Reporting on the developmental options whilst ignoring electoral sentiment.
Date: Wednesday, 1 November 2017 2:28:59 PM

It goes some way to demonstrating the collapse of democracy in Australia when this (interim) report fails to mention the most salient issue of all: the widespread electoral opposition to shale fracking (97% in one rural survey).

Some Aboriginal clan elders have already concluded that the only way they can protect their songline country is by declaring national sovereignty (as 8 other Australian population segments have already done). That is a position that is hard to argue against.

More broadly, most Australians already appear to understand that this is no longer our country with which to determine a desirable future; nor is government at any level even vaguely accountable to *The People*. We are rapidly moving into *flight or fight mode*... those with sufficient wealth wondering to where they can possibly *fly*; and the remainder realising it will probably come down to *fight*. Not a palatable prospect, but taking this lying down is out of the question.

If I may venture a personal observation, the NT ALP will most certainly not survive a *gale* decision, nor perhaps even a *breeze*. And a CLP embracing of fracking will become the nail in their party coffin. As with their federal counterparts, they still do not realise that not listening to the electorate is the prime contributor to their protracted demise.

Meanwhile, a third entity views fracking as the resource messiah, the conduit to all future wealth: highly accessible to traders and retailers and sundry opportunists. Let us not delude ourselves. These are people who would sell their grandmothers, wives, and daughters; welcome sanpans on the horizon; US flotillas in the harbour; or a permanent return to slavery, if this meant dollars in their accounts.

This is all very reminiscent of a closely related saga of history: the Eureka Stockade of 3 December 1854 (ignoring, of course, the historical revisionism that claims this to have been solely a mining fee issue; it was in fact almost entirely about democracy, with great international support and immense concern expressed by the investment banker elite of the time).

Perhaps, in light of your report, Eureka should now be regarded as unfinished business.

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