

Thank you for allowing me the chance to put in a submission towards the Draft Final Report on Unconventional Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.

My name is Karen Lewis, I have lived in the NT for over 25 years. I am married and have two children and a grandson. We love the territory lifestyle and all the pristine water ways within it, it has much to offer and we have always enjoyed knowing we could enjoy the waterways and wildlife without the threat of chemical contaminants.

I want a complete ban on unconventional hydraulic fracturing across the Northern Territory. I fail to understand how the “recommendations” are ensuring our water or wildlife will be protected. I would like to see recommendations on how the Gas companies or NT Government will fix an issue when it arises, not just a process of monitoring. Monitoring does not equal mitigation and creates a major risk to our environment that could be irreversible.

Allowing fracking gas fields across the Northern Territory poses too great a risk to our ground water, human health and threatens native animals. It also poses enormous risks to successful industries already operating in the Northern Territory, such as the Tiger prawn farming, barramundi farming, tourism and pastoral land, which all require clean water to continue to thrive in business.

I have read strong science based evidence from across the world and recently Australia that poor health¹, water contamination² and air pollution³ occurs where fracking gasfields are allowed across landscapes. Contamination and pollution occurs because it does not matter how many casings are installed on a well or how much cement slurry is poured in, all wells fail over their life⁴. We cannot control nature, we cannot control seismic activity nor can we ensure the dirt between the casing and earth remains blocked.⁵

With contamination from the chemical PFAS occurring within the Northern Territory as well as across other parts of Australia, I find it abhorrent that the NTG would even consider fracking let alone our Federal Government. I think this is a blatant violation and exploitation of the residents of the Northern Territory, whom have worked very hard to bring the economy and Territory to where it is today. These real hard working people do not deserve this condemnation.

So the Fracking Inquiry Panel and Chief Minister Michael Gunner, along with his government must listen to the evidence and the majority of the Northern Territory who do not want fracking gas fields in the Northern Territory. I do not want future generations to be subjected to the chemicals and radioactive waste that science shows is happening and will happen. Let us leave a legacy worth talking about.

Sincerely,

Karen Lewis

¹ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00207233.2017.1413221>

² <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/santos-coal-seam-gas-project-contaminates-aquifer-20140307-34csb.html>

³ <http://www.tai.org.au/content/fracking-good-your-health>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEM3y79kYJg>

⁵ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/earthquakes-triggered-by-fracking>