

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft final report on onshore horizontal shale gas fracking. 😊

As I stated at the hearing I have lived in the Northern Territory my whole life. 14 years of that in humpty doo. I am married and we have four amazing children together. Stephanie 14, Emma 11, Lucy 6 and Hayden 2. It was actually my eldest daughter who did an assignment at school last year that brought to my attention how terrible fracking was, it was then that I started researching for myself.

We absolutely love the territory lifestyle and all the pristine water ways within it, even the crocodiles. The NT has so much to offer and we have always enjoyed knowing we could hunt, fish, enjoy watching birdlife and swim amongst those beautiful gorges without the threat of chemical contaminants.

I want a complete ban on unconventional hydraulic fracturing across the Northern Territory. Because I do not believe there is enough evidence to show it can be done safely.

I want to share my thoughts on recommendation 5.2

“that the government mandate a program for the ongoing monitoring of abandoned shale gas wells in the NT. The program must include the ongoing monitoring of water quality by bores installed adjacent to the well and the results of such monitoring to be published in real time”

I don't have an issue with this other than the ongoing cost this will have on the government and I still do not know how they would fix a compromised well should and old well fail, which I believe they will as concrete and metal casing do not last forever. So I would like to see that the ongoing cost be included into the economic part of the report and I would really love it if someone can explain to me how it can be fixed should a problem arise.

I would like further water testing and measuring in all proposed areas to be done prior to the commencement of any actual fracking. After reading the draft final report summary it became apparent to me that there is insufficient evidence to show if the aquifers can sustain the water use needed by the gas companies. It is imperative to me as a Territorian to see at the very least a baseline of what the water systems were doing prior to fracking with respect to chemical contaminants and recharge rates.

During my presentation I promised that I would send you a list of the many endangered and threatened species that live in the Beetlalloo area (the most likely place for fracking), these are:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/threatened-animals>

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/206361/australian-painted-snipe.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/205475/northern-quoll.pdf critically endangered

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/205476/golden-backed-tree-rat.pdf critically endangered

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/206353/gouldian-finch.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/205505/golden-bandicoot.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/376133/carpentarian-antechinus.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/206466/floodplain-monitor.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/376138/ghost-bat-nt.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/205504/brush-tailed-rabbit-rat.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/373543/carpentarian-grasswren.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/205525/common-brushtail-possum.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/205514/great-bilby.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/206354/grey-falcon.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/206461/mitchells-water-monitor.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/376168/northern-shrike-tit.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/373554/painted-honeyeater.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/205517/pale-field-rat.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/206402/plains-death-adder.pdf

https://nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/206360/princess-parrot.pdf

I may have missed some, but there are plenty for you to look into.

Further to my comment about the public not being well informed and therefore still in the “dark” about what fracking is, I think that it is important that you consider the amount of advertising that has been “pro-fracking” from APPEA with misleading or lacking information. I feel our government didn’t ensure adequate or proper advertising for fracking consultations/hearings were being done, there are many platforms to use. There has been a lot of confusion about what type of fracking is being done with the public and that shows the lack of information being given.

I would like to point out again that there are so many jobs at risk and that they are the actual backbone of the Northern Territory right now and who built the NT to where it is now. I feel it is not fair to put all those industries at risk for the sake of 400-500 temporary jobs, because fracking is temporary. Industries such as ; Barramundi farms, cattle farms, pastoralists, fishing charters, people who catch fish for a living, mango farms, other vegetable farms and tourism.

Tourism alone provides over 16,000 Territorians with jobs.

Wells failing will see methane emissions (which are 80x worse than c02) This must go against the Paris agreement that the Federal government has signed with the UN regarding emission reduction.
<http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/government/international/paris-agreement>

We cannot continue to decimate the land and wildlife without consequences to human Health. We have to all work together to move forward with a healthier solution than what is being offered. I feel renewable energy is the way and we should be pushing ahead with it.

The evidence I have read shows that a staggering 60% of wells will fail over a 25 year period. My youngest child will only be 27 years old, when there are major effects occurring from fracking wells! I do not want this for my children's future, especially being smart enough to know there are other ways. I am willing to go without to ensure that the future for the next generation is a healthy and prosperous one, not a chemical filled cancer riddled one.

So I insist the fracking inquiry panel, the chief Minister Michael gunner and his government, listen to the overwhelming evidence and the majority of the Northern Territory residents who do not want fracking gas fields in the Northern Territory.

The public are busy and we rely on the government to make the best informed choices for the future, not choices from greed.

Yours Sincerely,

Justine Johnson

Proud Stay at home mum and Playgroup Co-ordinator

