

**From:** David Jagger  
**To:** [fracking inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Email submission to the NT Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry  
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**To the chairperson and panel members of the NT Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry,**

As do your terms of reference, I consider the environment in this context to include economic, cultural and social conditions.

Anti-fracking signs adorn many a fence and gate in Alice Springs, where I have long lived. Like me, I suspect many of the residents of these properties see the problems of fracking extending beyond the problems enumerated by 'hard' science.

Many Australians are tired of our politicians and so-called captains of industry hitching us all to the boom and bust cycles, the inherent gamble, that is much of the resources industry, the economically and socially unsophisticated dig 'em up, ship 'em out or burn 'em up and move on mentality operating at the expense of sustainable renewable energy industries few countries are better placed than us to develop and lead internationally. The prospect of fracking in the NT epitomises this mentality.

Despite the risk – including to the water Aboriginal tradition necessarily holds, and depicts, as so precious in the desert – fracking is justified by a gas shortage interstate and by job creation, such as jobs on the Northern Gas Pipeline sure to take fracked gas interstate if fracking is approved in the NT. Yet any gas shortage is in fact because much of our gas is being shipped overseas. Jobs are frequently short term, vulnerable to the boom and bust brought by fluctuating international prices for commodities; and limited in diversity, as well as sustainability. Very limited, compared to what is possible if we support and develop renewable energy manufacturing, storage, installation and supply industries and innovation for the quickly growing national and international markets.

Australia is obviously well positioned for this, and the NT for solar power in particular. Gas, including fracked gas, is meant to see us from coal to renewables, when it is actually delaying the quicker transition to renewables while our competitors in the huge emerging renewable energy development markets leave us behind.

And meanwhile, with fracked gas, we would continue to pump into the atmosphere the greenhouse gasses that are long scientifically proven to be causing very dangerous climate change, proven beyond the need for any further inquiry – whether or not you judge fracked gas production any worse in this regard than conventional gas. Climate change that is imperilling us and our economies, our extremely vulnerable friends and neighbours in the Pacific, South and Southeast Asia and many already endangered species. The recent bleaching of our Great Barrier Reef – worth so much to our economy if nothing else – couldn't be a plainer warning sign, among many such stark signs the world over.

Yours sincerely,

David Jagger  
Anthropologist