

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Department of Primary Industry and
Resources Submission #324

Mr Rod Applegate
Deputy Chief Executive Mines and Energy
Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources
GPO Box 3000
Darwin NT 0801

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Applegate

RE: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INQUIRY – INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory (the Inquiry)*, which was established by the Northern Territory Government under the *Inquiries Act 1945 (NT)* in late 2016 to investigate the impacts and risks of hydraulic fracturing of onshore shale gas reservoirs and associated activities on the environmental, social, economic and cultural conditions in the Northern Territory.

Mr Rod Dunbar of Nutwood Downs has requested the Inquiry access contracts he believes your Department possess, in particular:

1. a Contract between Origin Energy and Falcon Oil and Gas (which is now registered as a foreign company) pertaining to the exploration operations of EP98, and;
2. a Contract between Origin Energy and Falcon Oil and Gas and the Northern Territory regarding Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction in the Georgina Basin.

The Inquiry requests that if these documents are available to your Department, that these contracts and any relative material to be submitted to the Inquiry.

The *Inquiries Act* provides protection for matters deemed confidential, however it is my intention wherever possible to have all information publically available. Can your Department please indicate which materials (if any) are not to be made publically available and provide the reasons for the determination for each.

To the extent reasonably practicable, the Inquiry requests your response no later than **Friday 2 June 2017.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

THE HON JUSTICE RACHEL PEPPER
Chair

9 May 2017