

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Glossary

Units of measurement

References

Glossary

Term	Definition
2012 Hunter Report	<i>Regulation of Unconventional Gas Resource Development in the Northern Territory</i> , Dr Tina Hunter, 2012
2014 Hawke Report	<i>Report of the Independent Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory</i> , Dr Allan Hawke AC, 2014
2015 Hawke Report	<i>Review of the Northern Territory Environmental Assessment and Approval Processes</i> , Dr Allan Hawke AC, 2015
2016 Hunter Report	<i>Review of the Draft Petroleum (Environment) Regulations and independent assessment of the Regulations against best practice regulation of environmental aspects arising from petroleum activities involving ground disturbance</i> , Dr Tina Hunter, 2016
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABA	Area-based analysis
Abandonment	A process which involves shutting down the well and rehabilitating the site. It includes decommissioning the well.
ACIL Allen	ACIL Allen Consulting Pty Ltd
ARC	Administrative Review Council
ACOLA	Australian Council of Learned Academies
ACOLA Report	<i>Engineering Energy: Unconventional Gas Production</i> , Australian Council of Learned Academies, May 2013
AECOM	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
AER	Alberta Energy Regulator
AFANT	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ALARP	As low as reasonably practicable
ALEC	Arid Lands Environment Centre
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
Annulus	The space between surrounding pipe and wellbore.
APEEL	Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law
APPEA	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
API	American Petroleum Institute
ARC	Administrative Review Council
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investment Commission
AusRivAS	Australian River Assessment System
BC	British Columbia, Canada
BCOGC	BC Oil and Gas Commission
Beetaloo Sub-basin Case Study	<i>Beetaloo Sub-basin Social Impact Assessment Case Study</i> , Coffey Services Australia Pty Ltd, 17 January 2018
Beetaloo Sub-basin SIA Report	<i>Beetaloo Sub-basin Social Impact Assessment Summary Report</i> , Coffey Services Australia Pty Ltd, 17 January 2018
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BOP	Blowout preventer equipment installed on the wellhead assemblies to contain wellbore fluids either in the annular space between casing and the tubulars, or in an open hole during well drilling, completion, and testing operations.
BTEX	Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes
Casing	A pipe placed in a well to prevent the wall of the hole from caving in and to prevent movement of fluids from one formation to another.
Casing string	Steel pipe used to line a well and support the rock. The casing extends to the surface and is sealed by a cement sheath between the casing and the rock. Often, multiple casings are used to provide additional barriers between the formation and well.

Term	Definition
Cementing	The application of a liquid slurry of cement and water to various points inside and outside the casing.
CBL	Cement Bond Log. A key method for testing the integrity of cement used in the construction of the well, especially whether the cement is adhering effectively to both sides of the annulus between casings or between the outer casing and the rock sides.
CBI	Confidential business information
CCF	Community Capital Framework
CCGT	Combined-cycle gas turbine (power plant)
CCSG	University of Queensland Centre for Coal Seam Gas
CEM	Conceptual Exposure Model
Central Petroleum	Central Petroleum Limited
CET	Clean energy target
CGE	Computable general equilibrium
CH ₄	Methane
Christmas tree	Control valves, pressure gauges and chokes assembled at the top of a well to control the flow of gas after the well has been drilled and completed.
CI	Confidence interval
CLA	Cambrian Limestone Aquifer
CLC	Central Land Council
CLP	Country Liberal Party
CMA	Cumulative management area
CNS	Central nervous system
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COAG Energy Council	Council of Australian Governments Energy Council
CoC	Chemicals of concern
Coffey	Coffey Services Australia Pty Ltd
Coffey reports	Reports prepared by Coffey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSR M Report; • Beetaloo Sub-basin SIA Report; • Beetaloo Sub-basin Case Study; and • CSIRO Report
COP21	Conference of the Parties, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 21st session. See 'Paris Agreement'.
CRS	Chronic rhinosinusitis
CSG	Coal seam gas
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSIRO Report	<i>Social licence to operate in the Beetaloo Basin and Northern Territory</i> , Moffat K, Lacey J, McCrea R and Poruschi L, 2017
CSM	Conceptual site model
CSR M	Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (University of Queensland)
CSR M Report	<i>A framework for Social Impact Assessment of shale gas development in the Northern Territory</i> , Witt K, Vivoda V, Everingham J and Bainton N, November 2017
DDPHU	Darling Downs Public Health Unit
Deloitte	Deloitte Access Economics
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NT)
DIDO	Drive-in drive-out worker

Term	Definition
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT)
DLs	Detection limits
Drilling fluid/mud	Circulating fluid that lifts rock cuttings from the wellbore to the surface during the drilling operation. Also functions to cool down the drill bit, and is a component of well control.
DPIR	Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NT)
Draft Final Report	Draft Final Report, published December 2017
EAA	Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (NT)
EDO	Environmental Defenders Office NT
EDOA	Environmental Defenders Offices of Australia
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EMP	Environment management plan
EnRiskS	Environment Risk Sciences
EO	Environmental objective
EP	Petroleum exploration permit under the <i>Petroleum Act 1984</i> (NT)
EP Act	<i>Environment Protection Act</i> - proposed new environmental legislation
EPA	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
EPO	Environmental protection order
ERA	Economic Regulation Authority
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
EUR	Estimated ultimate recoveries
EV	Environmental values
Exploration activity	Any physical activity associated with drilling and hydraulic fracturing (which may include clearing and/or well construction) pursuant to the granting of exploration approvals for onshore shale gas on an exploration permit.
Exploration approvals	All operational approvals under the Schedule and all environmental approvals under the Petroleum Environment Regulations granted on an exploration permit for an exploration activity.
Exploration creep	Large numbers of exploration wells being drilled and hydraulically fractured pursuant to exploration approvals granted on an exploration permit .
FIFO	Fly-in fly-out worker
Flowback	Allowing fluids to flow from the well following a hydraulic fracturing treatment. Flowback fluid is composed of a mixture of hydraulic fracturing fluid and formation fluid.
Formation fluid	Any fluid within the pores of the rock. It may be water, oil, gas or a mixture. Formation water in shallow aquifers can be fresh. Formation water in deeper layers of rock is typically saline.
FPIC	Free, prior, and informed consent
Fracking	See 'hydraulic fracturing'
Framework	NT Water Allocation Planning Framework
FTE	Full time equivalent
Fugitive emissions	Intentional and unintentional release of greenhouse gases during the production, processing, transport, storage, transmission and distribution of fossil fuels.
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GDE	Groundwater dependent ecosystems
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GISERA	Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance
GLNG	Gladstone Liquefied Natural Gas
Government	Northern Territory Government

Term	Definition
GSP	Gross State product
GST	Goods and services tax
GWP	Global warming potential
H ₂ S	Hydrogen sulfide
Hancock Prospecting	Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
HELE	High efficiency, low emissions power generation
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 2011</i> (NT)
HFF	Hydraulic fracturing fluid
HHRA	Human health risk assessment
HI	Hazard index
HIA	Health impact assessment
Horizontal drilling	Drilling of a well in a horizontal or nearhorizontal plane, usually within the target hydrocarbon-bearing formation. Requires the use of directional drilling techniques that allow the deviation of the well on to a desired trajectory.
Hydraulic fracturing	Also known as 'fracking', 'fracking' or 'fracture simulation'. This is a process by which geological formations bearing hydrocarbons (oil and gas) are 'stimulated' to increase the flow of hydrocarbons and other fluids towards the well. In most cases, hydraulic fracturing is undertaken where the permeability of the formation is initially insufficient to support sustained flow of gas. The process involves the injection of fluids, proppant and additives under high pressure into a geological formation to create a conductive fracture. The fracture extends from the well into the production interval, creating a pathway through which oil or gas is transported to the well.
Hydraulic fracturing fluid / frac fluid	The fluid injected into a well for hydraulic fracturing. Consists of a primary carrier fluid (usually water or a gel), a proppant such as sand and chemicals to modify the fluid properties.
IBRA	International Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMAP	Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation
Impact	The difference between what happens as a result of activities and processes, and what happens without them. Impacts can be changes that occur to the natural environment, community or economy. They can be a direct or indirect result of activities, or a cumulative result of multiple activities or processes.
Interim Report	Interim Report, published July 2017
Indigenous land	Land under the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act
Inquiry	Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs and Associated Activities in the Northern Territory
IPA	Indigenous Protected Areas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Standards Organisation
Issues Paper	<i>Background and Issues Paper</i> , published February 2017
KTP	Key threatening process
Land Access Guidelines	Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines Land Access
Land Rights Act	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth)
Lazarus Report	<i>Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining Interim Report</i> . Chaired by Senator Glenn Lazarus in 2016
LCOE	Levelised cost of electricity
LEC	Land and Environment Court of NSW
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
Lock the Gate	Lock the Gate Alliance
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry

Term	Definition
MAR	Managed aquifer recharge
MEI	Melbourne Energy Institute
Minister for Environment	Northern Territory Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
Minister for Resources	Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
MNES	Matters of national environmental significance
Montara Inquiry	Montara Commission of Inquiry
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
NAIF	Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
NARMCO	North Australian Rural Management Consultants Pty Ltd
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
Native title land	Land subject to a native title application or determination under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).
NCRA	National Chemicals Risk Assessment
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NETL	US National Energy Technology Laboratory
NGER	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting
NGGI	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory
NGP	Northern gas pipeline
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NICNAS	National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme
NIR	National Inventory Report
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
N ₂ O	Nitrous oxide
NOPSEMA	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority
NORM	Naturally occurring radioactive materials. Radioactive elements and their decay products found in the environment that have been generated from natural processes.
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
NSPS	US EPA New Source Performance Standards
NSW	New South Wales
NTA	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NT	Northern Territory
NTCA	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
NTCAT	Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal
OCGT	Open cycle gas turbine
OGI	Optical gas imaging
OGIA	Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment
OR	Odds ratio (a measure of association between exposure and outcome)
Overpressure	Occurs when the pore pressure is higher than the hydrostatic pressure, caused by an increase in the amount of fluid or gas in the rock, or changes to the rock that reduce the amount of pore space. If the fluid cannot escape, the result is an increase in pore pressure. Overpressure can only occur where there are impermeable layers preventing the vertical flow of water, otherwise the water would flow upwards to equalise back to hydrostatic pressure.
Origin	Origin Energy Limited
OSGR	Onshore Shale Gas Regulator
Panel	The scientific panel appointed by the Chief Minister to conduct the Inquiry.
Pangaea	Pangaea Resources Pty Ltd

Term	Definition
Paris Agreement	Decision of the Conference of the Parties, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, 21st session, UN Doc FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1. See COP21
Pastoral Land Act	<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT)
Pastoral Lease	Pastoral leases granted under the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT)
Pastoral lessee/ pastoralist	Holder of a pastoral lease under the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT)
Perforation	A channel created through the casing and cement in a well to allow fluid to flow between the well and the reservoir (hydraulic fracturing fluids into the reservoir, or gas and oil into the well). The most common method uses perforating guns equipped with shaped explosive charges that produce a jet.
Permeability	The measure of the ability of a rock, soil or sediment to yield or transmit a fluid. The magnitude of permeability depends largely on the porosity and the interconnectivity of pores and spaces in the ground.
Petroleum Act	<i>Petroleum Act 1984</i> (NT)
Petroleum Environment Regulations	<i>Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016</i> (NT)
Petroleum permittee	Holder of a petroleum exploration permit under the <i>Petroleum Act 1984</i> (NT)
Petroleum Regulations	<i>Petroleum Regulations 1994</i> (NT)
Plug	A mechanical device or material (such as cement) placed within a well to prevent vertical movement of fluids.
PM	Particulate matter
Pressure test	A method of testing well integrity by raising the internal pressure of the well up to maximum expected design parameters.
Production activity	Any physical activity associated with drilling and hydraulic fracturing (which may include clearing and/or well construction) pursuant to the granting of production approvals for onshore shale gas on a production licence.
Production approvals	All operational approvals granted under the Schedule and all environmental approvals granted under the Petroleum Environment Regulations on a production licence for a production activity.
Production casing	A casing string that is set across the reservoir interval and within which the primary completion components are installed.
Production zone	Hydrocarbon producing zone of the shale formation.
Proppant	A component of the hydraulic fracturing fluid system comprised of sand, ceramics or other granular material that 'prop' open fractures to prevent them from closing when the injection is stopped.
RECs	Reduced emission completions
Risk	The probability of an adverse effect in an organism, system or population (or subpopulation) caused under specified circumstances by exposure to an agent.
RMPs	Regional Management Plans
RP Act	Regulatory Powers (<i>Standard Provisions</i>) Act 2014 (Cth)
SA	South Australia
Sacred Sites Act	<i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> (NT)
Santos	Santos Ltd
Schedule	<i>Schedule of Onshore Petroleum Exploration and Production Requirements 2016</i> (NT)
Seismic survey	A method for imaging the subsurface using controlled seismic energy sources and receivers at the surface. Measures the reflection and refraction of seismic energy as it travels through rock.
SIA	Social impact assessment
SLO	Social licence to operate
SREBA	Strategic regional environmental and baseline assessment
SCVF	Surface casing vent flow. Flow of gas from a vent in the annulus between surface casing and other casing strings in a well.

Term	Definition
SCP	Sustained casing pressure. Sustained pressure in the annulus between casing strings.
TAMEST	The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas
TAP	Threat abatement plan
TDS	Total dissolved salts
TMP	Traffic management plans
TPWC Act	<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976</i> (NT)
TWP	Total warming potential
UGE	Unconventional gas extraction
UK	United Kingdom
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UQ	University of Queensland
US	United States of America or United States
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VOCs	Volatile organic compounds
WA	Western Australia
WAP	Water Allocation Plan
Water Act	<i>Water Act 1992</i> (NT)
Waste Management Act	<i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i> (NT)
WCD	Water Control District
Weeds Act	<i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i> (NT)
Well barrier	Envelope of one or several dependent barrier elements (including casing, cement, and any other downhole or surface sealing components) that prevent fluids from flowing unintentionally between a bore or a well and geological formations, between geological formations or to the surface.
Well integrity	The International Standards organisation defines well integrity as, " <i>well integrity refers to maintaining full control of fluids (or gases) within a well at all times by employing and maintaining one or more well barriers to prevent unintended fluid (gas or liquid) movement between formations with different pressure regimes, or loss of containment to the environment.</i> "
Well integrity failure	Can result from a well breach (or a number of well breaches) and can take the form of a hydrological breach (fluid moves between different geological units) or an environmental breach (fluid leaks from the well and contaminates water resources).
Well pad	The area of land on which the surface infrastructure for drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations are placed. The size of a well pad depends on the type of operation (for example, well pads are larger during the initial drilling and HF than at production).
WIMS	Well integrity management system
Zonal isolation	Exclusion of fluids such as water or gas in one zone from mixing with fluids in another zone.

Units of measurement

Unit	Definition
Bcm	Billion cubic metres
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent. A metric for the measurement of the global warming potential of a substance.
EC	Electrical conductivity
EUR	Estimated Ultimate Recoveries
GL	Gigalitre
GL/y	Gigalitres per year
GWP	Global Warming Potential
ha	Hectare (10,000 m ²)
km	Kilometre
km ²	Kilometre squared
L	Litre
L/s	Litres per second
L/min	Litres per minute
m ³	Metres cubed
mg/L	Miligrams per litre
MJ	Megajoule (1 joule x 10 ⁶)
ML	Megalitre (1 litre x 10 ⁶)
ML/y	Megalitres per year
mm	Millimetre
mmcfd	Million cubic feet per day
mm/y	Millimetres per year
mS/cm	Millisiemens per centimetre (= 1000 uS/cm)
Mt CO ₂ e	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
M _w	Moment magnitude. The moment magnitude scale is based on the total moment release of the earthquake. Moment magnitude estimates are about the same as Richter magnitudes for small to large (ie <8) earthquakes.
MWh	Megawatt-hour
PJ	Petajoules
t	Tonne (1,000 kg)
Tcf	Trillion cubic feet
TDS	Total dissolved salts
TJ	Terajoule (1 joule x 10 ¹²)
TJ/d	Terajoule (1 joule x 10 ¹²) per day
TOC	Total organic content
TSS	Total suspended solids
uS/cm	Microsiemens per centimetre

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