

fracking inquiry

From: Lia Gill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 25 February 2018 12:13 AM
To: fracking inquiry
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss
Subject: Submission for Panel : Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.
Attachments: SUBMISSION TO THE SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - Copy.docx

Dear Scientific Enquiry Panel,
Please find attached my submission .
Thank you,

Lia Gill

SUBMISSION TO THE SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

5/2/2018

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I am a Mother and a Grandmother who has lived in the Territory virtually all my life and I am horrified at the probability of the living hell that our families will be left to deal with in the aftermath of hydraulic fracturing being allowed in the Northern Territory.

I am also a horticulturist and practitioner of Permaculture , and have studied Conservation and Land Management . I have a lifelong love and connection to our bushland of the Top End.

There is strong evidence from all countries in the world that have allowed this type of mining that poor health, water contamination, pollution and environmental degradation has occurred as a direct result. We have seen this outcome close to hand in Queensland already where large tracts of bushland has died off, and the Condamine River is bubbling with methane emissions. Victoria has already sensibly taken the step to ban fracking because it was deemed too great a risk as have several other areas of the world.

We are dependent on our groundwater for our survival. To risk this precious resource, the health and future of the citizens of the Northern Territory, and our pastoral, agricultural and tourism industries for the very short term ,and questionable financial gain that hydraulic fracturing would provide would not only be extremely foolish but absolutely criminal. To take the risks that this type of mining brings with it is like playing Russian roulette with our future health, our industries and environment but with 5 bullets in the barrel instead of just one.

There is a lack of data and understanding of the effects of climate change on our ground water, the variability of current and future rain fall amounts, and the ground water systems of the Northern Territory are also not fully understood. And though this panel has identified the risks to surface and ground water that could occur as a result of hydraulic fracturing the level of those risks or how to fully mitigate them have not been determined in the draft final report.

The effects of seismic activity are also of concern. We regularly experience tremors and though there may not be foreseeable problems in simulated or theoretical models these findings do not relate to reality or the unpredictable nature of the earths movement which may also be impacted upon as a direct result of hydraulic fracturing as has resulted in other countries such as in Canada and Texas in the USA. (Report show faults in Beetaloo Basin

: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/artical/pii/S0301926817303613#b0125> ,

Seismicity During the Initial Stages Of the Guy –Greenbrier, Arkansas, Earthquake Sequence
: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2017JB014946/full>

Fracking Activity Linked to Increase in Texas Quakes : <http://e360.yale.edu/digest/fracking-linked-to-increase-in-texas-quakes-according-to-new-study>

Fault Activation by Hydraulic Fracturing in Western
Canada: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/354/6318/1406>)

The mining industry in the Northern Territory has a history of mishaps, environmental degradation and a lack responsibility taken for damage done once the sought after materials have been depleted. If something does go wrong with a well there is no way that leakage into our aquifers can be stopped or cleaned up. Our successive governments have shown they cannot be trusted to regulate or control mining here and have not been transparent in regard to issues arising with other mining operations or practices by government bodies that have an impact on our environment.

Also in question is how often, if at all, these wells will be inspected in years to come. Once the gas has been extracted who will be monitoring these wells for damage in 30 , 40 or 50 years? Not the mining companies that's for sure. They will be long gone.

The amounts of water needed to carry out hydraulic fracking operations are phenomenal and it has not as yet been made clear how the contaminated water and chemical waste that are the by-products of this kind of operation will be disposed of. The transportation of this waste on our roads poses yet another risk.

Hydraulic fracturing would also contribute to global warming. The Northern Territory will be a very hard place to live in the future as it is without this additional burden on our resources and further warming effects as a result of this unwanted and dangerous mining activity being unleashed on our lands.

The panel imply within the report that the majority of people in the Northern Territory are ok with fracking. This assumption was based on a report by the CSIRO which found that about 57% of Territorians supported extractive mining. This is not reflective of the opinion of Territorians towards hydraulic fracking as extractive mining describes all mining, and whilst many Territorians may, for example, be supportive of open cut mining and such, there are clearly many Territorians who are absolutely opposed to hydraulic fracturing as has been demonstrated by the many who have attended and voiced their concerns at forums, and the record numbers that have attended rallies and protests against this proposed mining practice.

It would be interesting to see how many would vote to allow hydraulic fracturing if a referendum was held. I'm pretty confident that sanity would prevail if we were able to put this matter to the vote.

It is obvious that our Government cannot be trusted to be transparent in regard to this proposed method of mining as they are already advertising for overseas investors into onshore gas mining in

the Northern Territory,(Ian Scrimgeour ,Executive Director , N.T. Geological Survey ‘Minerals and Energy Investment Opportunities in Australia’s Northern Territory’ www.minerals.nt.gov.au , <https://core.nt.gov.au/investment-opportunities> or link as supplied to the panel by Ms P. Cass on 5/2/20018) which makes a mockery of the moratorium and shows that they have little concern or consideration for the rights and opinions of the people they are supposed to be representing and who’s interests they are supposed to be safe guarding.

This threat to our environment will also impact on the Northern Territories effectiveness as a strategic defence location, on the retail value of our properties and the likelihood of communities being able to work towards any kind of sustainability and self-reliance in regard to the use of their land to provide lasting economic benefits and the growing interest in food production in remote areas.

We can’t drink money and it won’t fix the problems that can, and in all likelihood will occur if this form of mining is allowed. When our ground water is contaminated and large areas of our environment are destroyed forever as a result of this proposed method of mining being allowed our Government will ultimately be responsible for the genocide and displacement of thousands of Territorians.

No one has the right to take such a gamble with our future and that of our children’s. Our Chief Minister, Mr Gunner must listen to the overwhelming majority of people in the Northern Territory who want to protect our environment and water for future generations and ban hydraulic fracking in the Northern Territory.

Lia Gill