

fracking inquiry

From: Geraldine Milton <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, 12 February 2018 12:27 PM
To: fracking inquiry
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Fyles; Minister Vowles; Minister Moss
Subject: Written submission on the NT Fracking Inquiry draft Final Report

Dear Justice Pepper and Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback on the draft Final Report of the NT Fracking Inquiry.

I appreciate that the Panel's report makes many important recommendations in the face of the 115 risks identified.

The Panel has made 19 recommendations relating to the NT's water resources. The draft report acknowledges that risks remain, even with these recommendations.

Groundwater is critical in the Northern Territory. It is allocated for our residential needs, existing industries and environmental flows. Many high yielding aquifers within the NT are close to their full allocation already. Many are under pressure from resource development (page 105).

The draft Final Report outlines significant knowledge gaps for groundwater, biodiversity, landscape and health impacts. These gaps need to be rectified and baseline studies completed.

As a previous remote area nurse in the Northern Territory. I appeal to you to both Ben fracking, and the current damaging exploration activities which are virtually identical to production activities. Chemical use, high pressure hydraulic fracturing through aquifers, water use and associated risks are involved. Any regulatory changes should apply to all stages of gas development.

The draft Final Report shows Origin energy identified exploration and appraisal could include 8-16 wells and 24-48 wells for delineation (page 167).

Origin alone could drill and frack up to 64 wells across their tenement, all before critical improvements are made to the regulations.

With fracking companies combined, we could have a situation in the NT where there are over a hundred fracked gas wells across the landscape. That's all before production, without key law changes or baseline studies complete.

For the sake of all of us living in Australia now and in the future, and all our flora and fauna, 🙏. I appeal to you not allow the gas fracking process to continue in the NT. and that any damage already done to the environment be rectified.

In the NT there is a saying, "Once you frack you can't go back." Exploration fracking is no different. We must put in place critical new regulations and laws as soon as possible to prevent both, and avoid delays to the protection of the Northern Territory's water, landscapes and people.

