

**From:** unison  
**To:** [fracking inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Community Update #4  
**Date:** Monday, 27 February 2017 12:36:40 AM

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Dear Scientific Inquiry,

I wanted to pass along this article/speech **By Martin Ferguson, Chair, APPEA Advisory Board** from November of 2016, as he has some solid knowledge of fracturing over the past 50 years in Australia.

<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2016/11/16/myths-misinformation-nt-gas-ferguson/>

On Mon, Feb 20, 2017 at 4:03 PM, Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT <[fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au](mailto:fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au)> wrote:

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21 February 2017

## Community Update #4

Inquiry Chair, Justice Rachel Pepper announced the release of an Issues Paper, which can be viewed [here](#). Justice Pepper also announced the opening of registrations for the first stage of community consultation in March 2017. Please see the media release below.

Registration for formal hearings and community meetings is now open for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin. For more details and to register please visit [frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au](http://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au)

### Media Release 20 February 2017

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory released a Background and Issues Paper today, ahead of its Territory wide community consultation program commencing in March 2017.

Inquiry Chair, Justice Rachel Pepper said the purpose of the paper is to facilitate a discussion between the Inquiry Panel and Territorians.

"The Issues Paper identifies the potential risks of the hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional reservoirs and associated activities in the Northern Territory, within the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry," she said.

"The paper includes information about the differences between conventional and unconventional gas, coal seam gas and shale gas, and the locations of prospective shale gas reservoirs in the Northern Territory.

"It also provides an overview of prior reports produced on hydraulic fracturing as well as an outline of the regulatory framework for hydraulic fracturing and the petroleum industry in the Northern Territory."

Justice Pepper is meeting with key stakeholder organisations this week such as, the Environmental Defenders Office, Lock the Gate, Frack Free Alliance, Arid Lands Environment Centre, AFANT, Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce, Northern Land Council, Central Land Council and industry including AAPEA, Origin and Santos.

Justice Pepper said the next step in the Inquiry's process is hearing from Territorians and that there are many ways for people to participate in the Inquiry's community consultation program.

"We want to know from the community and organisations if the issues identified in the Issues Paper have been properly identified and whether there are other issues for the Inquiry to consider going forward," she said.

"The Issues Paper is available on our website, and in the next few days we will have an online feedback form allowing people to submit their comments electronically.

"We will be visiting 15 locations across the Territory next month to speak with as many Territorians as possible."

Justice Pepper said the consultation program next month includes formal hearings and community meetings.

"We look forward to hearing from individuals and organisations during hearings and to sharing information and engaging with people at the community meetings.

"Registration is now open on our website for hearings and communities meetings in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin.

"If you are unable to attend either of these forms of consultation this time, then we encourage you to write to the Inquiry, lodge a submission, or go to our website and have your say on the issues and themes outlined in the Issues Paper."

The first stage of consultation includes the major centres of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin, including the Darwin rural area, as follows:

- 6 March 2017 – Alice Springs (hearings and community meeting)
- 7 March 2017 – Tennant Creek (hearings and community meeting)
- 8 March 2017 – Katherine (hearings and community meeting)
- 9 March 2017 – Darwin and rural area (community meetings)
- 10 March 2017 – Darwin (hearings)

Full details and registration are available at [frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au](http://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au)

The second stage of community consultation will occur in the following communities 20 March – 29 March 2017 as follows:

Monday 20 March 2017 - Maningrida  
Monday 20 March 2017 - Gapuwiyak  
Monday 20 March 2017 - Nhulunbuy  
Tuesday 21 March 2017 - Ngukurr  
Tuesday 21 March 2017 - Borroloola  
Wednesday 22 March 2017 - Daly Waters  
Thursday 23 March 2017 - Mataranka  
Friday 24 March 2017 - Timber Creek  
Monday 27 March 2017 - Wadeye  
Tuesday 28 March 2017 - Yuendumu  
Wednesday 29 March 2017 - Hermannsburg

More information and registration for the communities above will be available soon.

Please direct all correspondence regarding the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing to:  
Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801  
T 08 8999 6573  
E [fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au](mailto:fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au)  
W [frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au](http://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au)

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## Myths and misinformation in NT gas: Ferguson

NOVEMBER 16, 2016

**Driven by hostility to fossil fuels and a naive faith in renewables, activists are using misinformation to push an anti-gas agenda.**

**By Martin Ferguson, Chair, APPEA Advisory Board**

I want to use a Northern Territory context to take a close look at the myths that underpin the activists' main arguments.

### **Myth 1: Fracking is dangerous and shale gas development threatens water supplies**

The fact is – hydraulic fracturing has a long history of safe operations.

It has been used to produce gas safely around the world, in Australia and in the NT.

Fracking has been in use since 1947 in the oil and gas industry.

It was first used in the Territory in 1967. It is also used to develop water bores.

Across the world, more than 2.5 million fracks have been completed.

Fracking, horizontal drilling and related technologies are continually being refined.

The safe use, storage and disposal of chemicals is tightly regulated. In many cases, it is much more regulated than in other industries.

Shale gas development uses water – but on a modest scale compared to other land uses.

The Hawke Inquiry (<http://www.shale-gas.com.au/hawke-report-finds-no-justification-for-hydraulic-fracturing-moratorium/>) found that the entire NT gas industry – when fully developed – would require no more water than has been allocated to some individual pastoral properties.

Even so, where there are real constraints on water supply, regulators and the gas industry must consider whether developments should proceed and, if so, under what conditions.

Where possible, the industry will look to use saline or recycled water to reduce its demand on high-quality reserves.

Our industry's understanding of these issues shapes our operational practices, and we are confident that the new NT Government's fracking inquiry will broadly agree with the findings of the Hawke Report.

#### **Myth 2: Renewables and batteries mean we don't need gas**

The opposite is true: the more renewables we use, the more we need gas.

When the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining, another source of power is needed.

Right now, battery technology is nowhere near advanced enough to provide affordable large-scale storage.

It will be very useful in some small-scale, local, off-grid applications, but it cannot deliver back-up power across the electricity grid.

Excitement over the potential of batteries is understandable. But we should remember similar excitement over biofuels a few years ago.

The truth is, the ability to rapidly start and shut-down makes gas-fired power the perfect partner for wind and solar.

Without gas, renewables cannot provide energy security, nor can they deliver on their potential for emissions reduction.

Gas will remain essential for many years to come.

#### **Myth 3: The gas market has collapsed and there is no demand for gas.**

The fact is – there is a demand for new NT gas supplies.

NT onshore gas production will not initially be aimed at international markets.

It will target the NT and eastern states gas markets, which need more gas.

The east coast gas market is already tight, and there is likely to be a shortfall in supply towards the end of the decade.

Connecting the Territory to the east coast market will boost competition.

It will diversify supply and it will enhance energy security across most of Australia.

Yes, global demand for gas has softened in recent years and the global LNG price has fallen.

But gas demand is forecast to recover and to grow strongly over the next two decades.

Less than a decade from now, the world will need new sources of LNG supply.

LNG demand is forecast to grow strongly in the 2020s.

The Paris Agreement will accelerate this trend.

NT onshore gas could be used to develop new production units at Ichthys and Darwin LNG.

#### **Beware Trojan horses**

The facts are on our side, but the misinformation persists.

Green and activist groups are unconstrained by truth.

Their stated aim is to end fossil fuel use.

This is an edited extract from a speech that Martin Ferguson gave to the Petroleum Club of the Northern Territory on 14 November.

[illegible]

Prime Minister warns gas suppliers (<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2017/04/20/prime-minister-warns-gas-suppliers/>)

ACCC begins probe on Bass Strait deal (<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2017/04/19/accc-begins-probe-bass-strait-deal/>)

Trans-continental pipeline gathers steam (<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2017/04/19/trans-continental-pipeline-gathers-steam/>)

Origin announces new head of Integrated Gas (<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2017/04/19/origin-announces-new-head-integrated-gas/>)

Crossbench calls for PRRT reform (<https://www.pipeliners.com.au/2017/04/18/crossbench-calls-prrt-reform/>)





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(<https://www.pipeliner.com.au/pas/web-side-bar-april-ausurethane-systems/sidebar-5/0>)



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This advertisement shows a worker in a white hard hat and a high-visibility yellow vest operating a large, green and white McElroy trencher. The machine is cutting a deep trench in the ground. In the background, there is a body of water and a bridge. The word "RUGGED." is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters at the top. The McElroy logo is in the bottom left, and a "LEARN MORE" link with a right-pointing arrow icon is in the bottom right.

(<https://www.pipeliner.com.au/pas/mcelroy-side-bar-march-oct-17/sidebar-5/0>)



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The ERA logo is displayed, consisting of a red rectangle followed by the letters "ERA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.