

fracking inquiry

From: Deborah Hall <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 9 February 2018 6:55 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 Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input to the Report of the NT NT Fracking Inquiry.

I have enjoyed living in the NT since 1989. During that time I've kept up with the news and travelled widely for work and pleasure. It's an incredible part of the world.

The NT has a number of failed and abandoned mine sites which continue to generate pollution and other damage to the surrounding areas. It's distressingly common that these sites have not been fully rehabilitated. Tax-payers and/or the environment will pay that cost. Glencore is currently seeking to expand its operations at the McArthur River Mine site. This company has paid very few dividends over the twenty year operation, and anticipates hundreds? of years for rehabilitation of the current site. How can we allow short term gain to outweigh the economic and environmental cost of such an activity?

I understand that the Panel may recommend lifting the moratorium on fracking in the NT. I don't think we should allow fracking because I have NO trust in the industry and NO trust in the government's ability and commitment to monitor the activity.

It would be irresponsible to allow any drilling until all the recommendations to ensure safety are in place. As I understand it one single problem could mean that underground water over a large area is polluted. Katherine's problems with PFAS are an interesting example of how central groundwater is to economic exploitation of an area. Crops have been left on the trees or in the ground. They are unsaleable.

I appreciate that the NT Government is very keen to 'develop the North' but I also remember the catch cry 'no economy without an environment'.

The NT has great potential as a 'clean', diverse, special destination for tourists. This industry doesn't come with the large scale risks of hydraulic fracturing and employs far more people, many of whom can be indigenous (I suspect the tax collected from tourism operators far exceeds that of large mining companies). Mining is known for its high tech/low employment ratio.

Please listen to the people who've expressed their concerns about Fracking, and their lack of confidence in the government's ability to set up a robust, effective regulatory framework.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely, Deborah Hall Tiwi, Northern Territory, 0810, Australia

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