

fracking inquiry

From: Chris Hawke [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 February 2018 6:22 AM
To: fracking inquiry
Subject: My thankful, fearful and focused letter with invitation.
Attachments: NT Fracking Inquiry findings have left me thankful, fearful & focused.docx

Dear Justice Pepper and Panel.

It was good to speak personally with you Justice Pepper as part of a larger group with some of your panel members at the Alice Springs Community Consultation. I agree with your 'robust and respectful' comment summarising your community engagement discussions.

I have included some of my reflections from this consultation discussion below in a letter that I have sent to some media. I have attached these reflections and also copied them below after my signature. I am happy for the attachment to go on the website.

May I make a personal invitation or appeal to you and your panel members....which may not be appropriate on the public website...or maybe it is ... for transparency. Its up to you.

Is there anything any of you can do which may create the conditions for a better outcome to this Inquiry, the governments decision about the moratorium or wider concerns?

Are all of you in full agreement with this draft? Could anyone present a dissenting point of view?

Could your report more specifically state the limitations or implications of the narrow terms of reference?

Are you prepared to give personal views that are outside of the legal frame of reference? Are you prepared to address the original hope and intention of the community for a broad inquiry to decide if they can continue with the moratorium?

Or if you are not prepared to go public but share some of our concerns what else can you do?
Could you offer your knowledge and skills to those desperately attempting to create a better future for ourselves and our children's children around our world. Could you financially support those working for a better world. Perhaps share some of your taxpayer earnings from this Inquiry with those that you believe are doing good work. Many of us are doing the best we can with little or no financial support. It actually costs me money in fuel, internet data, phone, printing, admin, unpaid time and emotional worry to contribute to this community consultation. (I am typing this in the middle of the night because I cannot sleep because of the long term implications of this Inquiry.)

I am deeply concerned that the currently accepted political realities (like choosing a narrow frame of reference that excludes significant concerns of those who voted for them) will continue to create long term disillusionment and loss of overall confidence of most Australians in the current political process (decisions by our elected leaders). And this loss of confidence is happening globally and leading to future unrest which I wish to avoid.

I am prepared to speak with any of you personally, even off the record, either now or after your tenure has been completed with the Inquiry. Or are you contractually silenced? (as many of us are within previous government or other employment contracts or accepted culture)

Or can I encourage you each to speak with your family and friends and take action to create a better future wherever you live on this fragile planet.

Again. Thank you for the opportunity to enter into 'robust and respectful' dialogue with each of you. Sadly there are many countries in our world where this is difficult or impossible to do. I wish you all the best in your concluding phase with this Inquiry and whatever you do after this.

Chris Hawke

Letter to media attached and copied below:

The NT Fracking Inquiry findings have left me thankful, fearful and focused.

I am thankful that our community was widely consulted and recorded widespread community opposition to fracking, which Inquiry Chair Justice Pepper described as 'robust and respectful'.

I am fearful that the Inquiry's narrow terms of reference have resulted in recommendations that leave the door open for NT government approval. Excluding the global impact on climate change and excluding comparisons with renewable energy weaken the recommendations and undermine any 'social contract' the NT government needs from Territorians.

Even Justice Pepper and her panel of scientists accept the science of the impacts of climate change. But climate change is excluded from their terms of reference and recommendations.

Their job projections also mislead readers by excluding any comparison with renewable energy jobs.

I am fearful that short-term, self-interest, fossil fuel supporters are pressuring our government to go slow on renewables, long enough to lock Centralians into fracking to pay off past gas contracts and our ten new gas generators at Owen Springs, as well as exporting gas through the North-East Connector (owned by the Singapore and Chinese governments) while they can still make a profit.

We need to remain focused on building widespread community awareness of the self-interest spin that is undermining community action and confidence in our current NT decision making processes. Let's focus on the big picture vision with bold action, like South Australia's virtual power plant with Tesla or New York City suing big oil companies. Roadmaps, research and reports are not enough. Every reader needs to support courageous action. We, our children's children and our planet deserve it now.

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