

Submission

I attended the Sat 10th Feb session in Darwin.

I am concerned that it appeared to me it was inferred that apart from regulatory checks & balances we the public had the power to keep the industry in check.

It seems to me that this is fanciful given I have travelled extensively throughout Australia and encounter no go zones everywhere.

Anyone that has taken a drive through the Cooper Basin will understand the vastness of areas the public is prohibited from going whether the oil/gas field is defunct or functional.

<https://www.santos.com/what-we-do/activities/south-australia/cooper-basin/>

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So the public must rely on reporting by those with vested interests (and government have a vested interest). Fanciful!

Does anyone even now how many and how regularly the numerous wells producing unattended are checked in those regions? Let alone those that are now defunct.

There are programmes to cap & pipe artesian bores but in our travels we see many a capped bore leaking through deterioration of infrastructure. This demonstrates we are incapable physically & economically of doing the required maintenance today.

A legacy of thousands of years maintenance is not something I wish to leave to my children and future generations.

Secondly I take objection to the below final para of the Summary of the Draft Final Report as in my view our Government would be encouraged by these statements to proceed to frack and it is not I think within your ambit to encourage them to do so. And I think the reference to flowing out of the hills and dawn chorus reverberating appears as the cynical reference to the communities sincere desire to maintain pristine water & country.

In short, the Panel is of the opinion that with enactment of robust and rigorously enforced safeguards, the waters shall continue to flow “clear and cold out of the hills” 8 and the “dawn chorus of” Magpie Geese, Brolgas, Budgerigars, Black Kites, Blue-winged Kookaburras “and scores of other bird voices” 9 shall continue to reverberate across the NT landscape notwithstanding the development of any onshore shale gas industry.