

**From:** Matt Silverman  
**To:** [fracking inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Have Your Say  
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Panel Members:

I favor lifting the Moratorium and allowing new gas exploration, including hydraulic fracturing, in the Northern Territory.

Sweetpea Petroleum Pty Ltd was the original permit holder in Beetaloo Basin Exploration Permits 76, 98 and 117. Our geologists and engineers recognized the oil and gas potential of the shales in this area over 20 years ago. We began investing in the Territory then.

Recent exploration activity by Origin Energy and others has proved that vision to be correct. A vast gas resource has been identified, with the promise of lasting economic benefits to the Territory and its residents.

An essential element in the realization of these benefits is stimulation of the gas reservoirs via hydraulic fracturing to enable the flow of gas. This process has been proven safe and effective for 60 years, as millions of fracture treatment jobs have been completed all over the world.

In areas that have permitted these proven techniques, the economic benefits have been revolutionary. Gains in employment, tax revenues, and royalties to the States, and reductions in energy costs have greatly advantaged consumers and local business. Critical funding has been provided for essential government services like schools and assistance to families.

At the same time, adverse impacts are minimal. Independent agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey have shown that groundwater is protected in properly constructed wells and that the materials used are safe and appropriate for this purpose. Agricultural and traditional uses of the surface are compatible with gas exploration and production, and property values are maintained.

If I may offer any information about our positive experience with gas

exploration and hydraulic fracturing in our areas of activity in the NT and elsewhere, I would be most pleased to do so.

Thank you.

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