

**From:** Warwick Giblin  
**To:** [fracking inquiry](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Shale gas: Copy of newspaper advertisement Aug 2016 from NT pastoralists  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 March 2017 12:26:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [MEDIA RELEASE-NT farmers unite to fight fracking free-for-all \(1\).pdf](#)

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Hi Team,

Please pass to the Inquiry Chair + Panel

Kind regards,

Warwick

**Warwick Giblin**

Fellow, Environment Institute of Aust & NZ

*Managing Director*

*OzEnvironmental Pty Ltd*

*Delivering **true** progress*



<http://www.ozenvironmental.com.au/>

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# Media Release

20 August 2016

## NT farmers unite to fight fracking free-for-all

The Northern Territory's largest farmers have called on voters to use the ballot box to stop an environmental disaster on their doorstep.

In an unprecedented open letter, published ahead of next weekend's election, more than sixty cattle station owners and growers have warned that unfettered gas fracking posed a huge risk to the Territory's food production and water resources.

The signatories include Colin Ross from North Star Pastoral, which runs approximately 100,000 head of cattle across the Northern Territory and Queensland.

"Globally, fracking has proved to be a disaster - the NT is no different. It's not worth the risk," Mr Ross said.

"We can't put the genie back in the bottle after gas fields, wells, waste water ponds and processing plants are forced upon the land and use up the Territory's precious underground water supplies.

"The NT has huge, multi-generational potential as a flourishing food producer but without plentiful, uncontaminated bore water the Top End is useless.

"It just beggars belief that anyone – let alone our elected representatives - would jeopardise our farming future."

Rod Dunbar has owned and lived on Nutwood Downs Station, a family-run cattle property, for 33 years. He faces the prospect of a major gas field being built on his land.

"Drilling hundreds of gas wells on our station would be devastating to the business and personally – this is all we've got and we'd have to pack up and leave," Mr Dunbar said.

"We wouldn't be able to run cattle, the fracking would destroy the water bed, and it isn't a precise science - they can't guarantee our safety.

"I don't see how the government can allow the destruction of the land and have no accountability - it's totally unacceptable."

The farmers' group has demanded the next NT Government stop mining companies from riding rough shod over the Territory's best interests.

"The gas miners have been targeting smaller farmers whose backs are against the wall," Mr Ross said.

"But everybody should have the right to say no, they don't want their property destroyed by hundreds of steel-lined gas wells, kilometres of interconnected pipeline, and dozens of foul waste water ponds.

"Farmers just want the legal right to say No to fracking."

The group has urged NT voters to elect a leadership that will stand up to the miners.

"These companies are looking for a quick buck – they don't care about the Top End's long term future – they just take the gas and walk away," Mr Ross said.

"We must put the power back in the hands of those who care for our country."

Media contacts: Barbara Cox, Sequel PR – 0403 090 913  
 Shaun Rigby, Sequel PR – 0438 021 936

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# TERRITORIANS BEWARE - OUR FUTURE IS 'FRACKED'

Dear Fellow Territorians,

**Be warned. Our precious water is under threat and our government is just letting it happen.**

Demand for food is at an all-time high.

As the world's population looks to Australia to feed it, the Northern Territory is in an incredible position because we have what much of the world does not – **WATER**.

Artesian water flows underground into our bores, wells, irrigation networks and troughs.

Without it crops and orchards will wither, while cattle die.

**Allowing shale oil and gas fracking will be a potentially catastrophic blow to our agricultural industry.**

Already circling our farms are greedy mining companies, eager to prey on our vulnerable and **unprotected water table**.

Under current laws gas fracking companies can access our properties without our consent, construct gasfields with hundreds of gas wells, frack waste water ponds, pipelines and processing plants that risk polluting and depleting water supplies. With forced land 'access agreements' the fracking companies get what they want and we get fracked.

Territorians, you need to understand how devastating and irreparable the consequences will be if **our water table is compromised**.

We need our Territorian brothers and sisters who care about the land to stand united to **protect our water**.

We call on our government, and those who hope to win on Saturday, to stop the rot and give us the right to say "no" to the mining giants before it's too late.

Next weekend, vote for a leadership that can stand up to mining companies, is truly committed to saving our farming futures and is willing to protect the Territory's most precious asset: water.

If you support our cause please contact: [water.not.fracking@gmail.com](mailto:water.not.fracking@gmail.com) or email and/or call your local candidates.

**Make your vote count.**

— Yours sincerely, concerned farmers of the Northern Territory

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We also want to acknowledge all of the rural suppliers, station managers and rural aviation companies that have pledged their support.



Authorised by C. Ross, North Star Pastoral, 65 Arnhem Highway, McMillans Lagoon