



Darwin - Carl Brand for Rikki Saltmarsh

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Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin

Speakers: Carl Brand for Rikki Saltmarsh

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: We have our last presenter here. Mr. Saltmarsh. Mr. Saltmarsh, if you could just state your name and who you're appearing on behalf of. If it's yourself, that's fine. Just let us know. Thank you.

Carl Brand: Alright, my name is Carl Brand. I'm actually representing Rikki Saltmarsh, who's just in the last hour and a half given me a statement to read on her behalf.

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: Ah, my apologies. Thank you, so your name is?

Carl Brand: Carl Brand.

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: Carl Brand? B-R-A-N-D?

Carl Brand: B-R-A-N-D.

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: Thank you very much.

Carl Brand: And it's a general statement of concern, I suppose affecting the general community.

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: Thank you very much.

Carl Brand: So I'll just read it as she's put down.

Hon. Justice

Rachel Pepper: Thank you.

Carl Brand: It's quite a short piece. She begins with, "Good Afternoon, Justice Pepper and panel members. Thank you for allowing me to have my say this afternoon at this inquiry. I'm pleased to acknowledge that we all drive cars, use barbecues, plastic products, and so on, and for that you need extraction and mining."



" We also need water and drinking sharing, swimming, which is... Also understand that much of the gas extraction is to export at the expense of both our water and land. I am a long time resident of Darwin's rural area, and one of my main concerns is, you guessed it, water, which I think is one of the major concerns all around. We live in the driest continent on this planet, Australia."

" To quote a PDF. 'Shale gas extraction, WA, the amount of water extracted for fracking is between 5 to 25 million litres per well. Approximately ten fracks per well, by thousands of wells, that's quite scary.' To quote the article, 'Water beneath our feet,' by Derek Eamus, professor of environmental sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney, who previously worked with an oil exploration university on tropical savannas." And she goes on to quote again, "The declining ground water is a big problem for Australia, the loss of ground water poses serious effects to humans." And then she says, "I ask, has anyone proven the mechanical injection of fracking, and is it safe? And I have no doubt you're going to address that in your final reports. What's an acceptable risk, question mark? When will mining companies pay and be accountable for water usage, and who are you intending monitors this?"

"Just like have been filmed in Queensland, dumping wastewater anywhere they can. When will BTEX chemicals be banned from fracking, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene? And some of the interim report put out by the inquiry, it's mentioned that the chair, the deputy chair, however many panel members will consult with? There are energy regulations in Canada," and she asks again, "How can we be assured that the regulators are actually independent? There have been many instances of bad practises in the US and Canada, and dreadful consequences for many citizens and communities living in those fracking wells," or close to those fracking wells, sorry. To conclude, I quote, 'the Northern Territory has an extraordinary amount of sunshine, which is perfect for the solar industry, so do we want a future based on fossil fuels or alternative energies?' And I'll leave this with you. Thank you very much.

This is from Rikki Saltmarsh. It's, as I say, a general statement of concern rather than a ...

Hon. Justice
Rachel Pepper:

No, no, no, thank you very much. I'm appreciative of both Ms. Saltmarsh's time and your time coming here today. Given that you're reading out a statement on behalf of somebody else, we won't ask you any questions, but I should just let you know to pass on to Ms. Saltmarsh that BTEX is banned in fracking in the Northern Territory.

Carl Brand:

I'll relay that to her.

Hon. Justice
Rachel Pepper:

That brings today's proceedings to a close, and we will resume tomorrow at 8:30 AM. Thank you very much. Thank you for coming, Mr. Brand.