

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Interim Report

August 2017



Work so far

- We have met 6 times
- We went to see a frack at Moomba in South Australia
- We released a *Background and Issues Paper*
- We did hearings and community meetings
- We went to visit gas fields in Queensland
- We spoke to pastoralists
- We released an *Interim Report*
- We have done more hearings and community meetings in August



What we have heard

- Water
- Regulatory framework
- Land
- Air
- Aboriginal people and their culture
- Social impacts
- Health
- Economic impacts



What we will do next

- Look at the evidence
- Assess the risks
- Look at ways to reduce the risks
- Look at the benefits
- Report to Government
- Government will make a decision about fracking

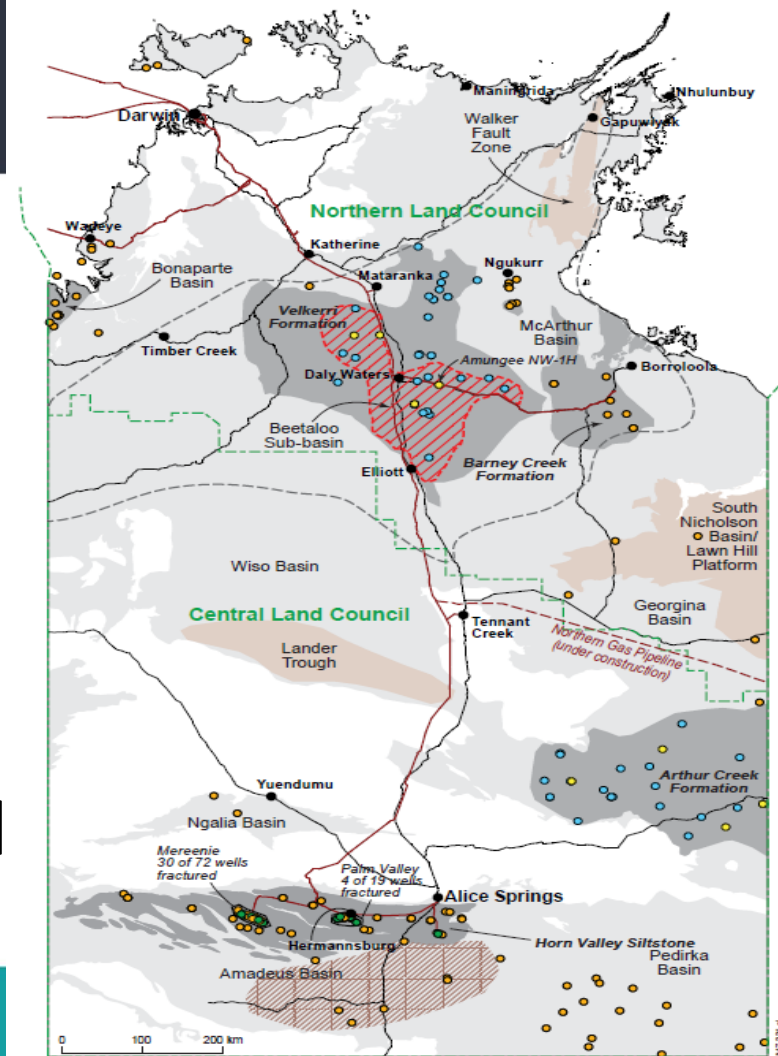


Fracking and unconventional gas

- Well integrity
- Well decommissioning
- Water use
- Waste water
- Earthquakes
- Sink holes

Where is the gas?

- There are lots of basins
- Most of it is unexplored
- ~ 70% of the total shale gas is in the Beetaloo Sub-basin
- There is fracking of conventional wells and unconventional wells

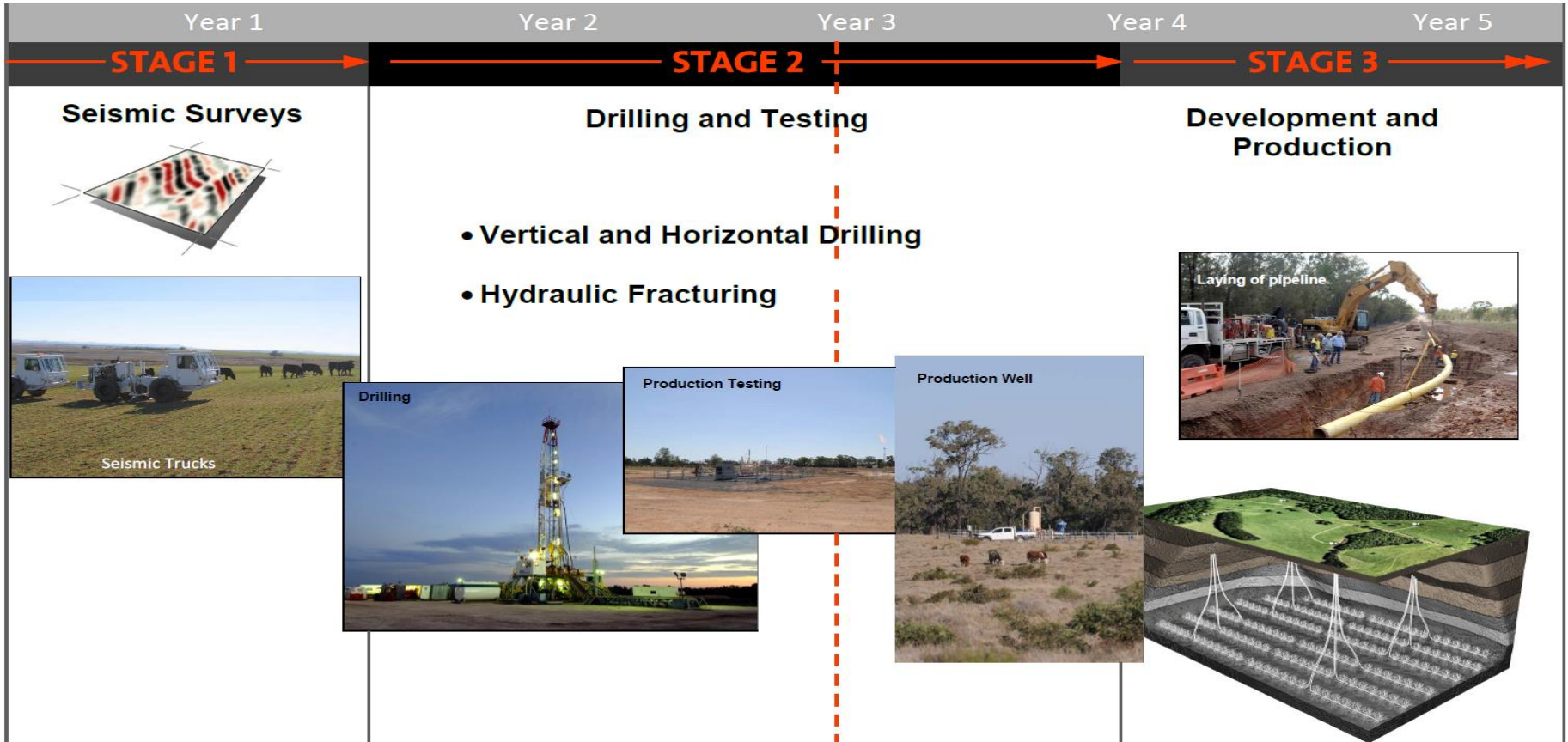




What will development look like?

- 1-2 shale gas resources might be developed in next 5-10 years
- Beetaloo Sub-basin will probably be first
- Between 1,000 - 6,250 wells and 150 - 200 drilling pads

Timeline for development





Water

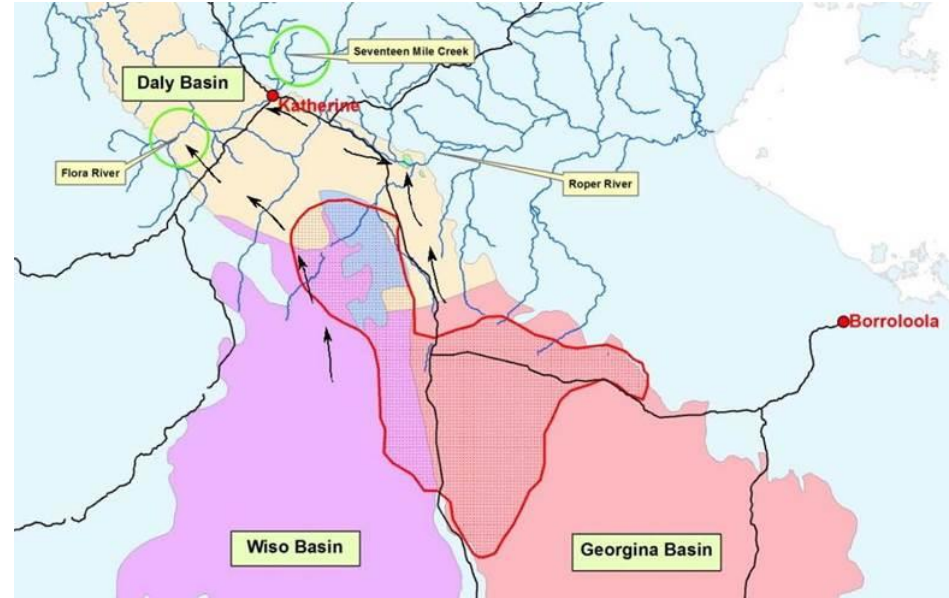
We need to make sure:

- Water is not contaminated
- There is enough water for everyone
- Plants and animals are protected



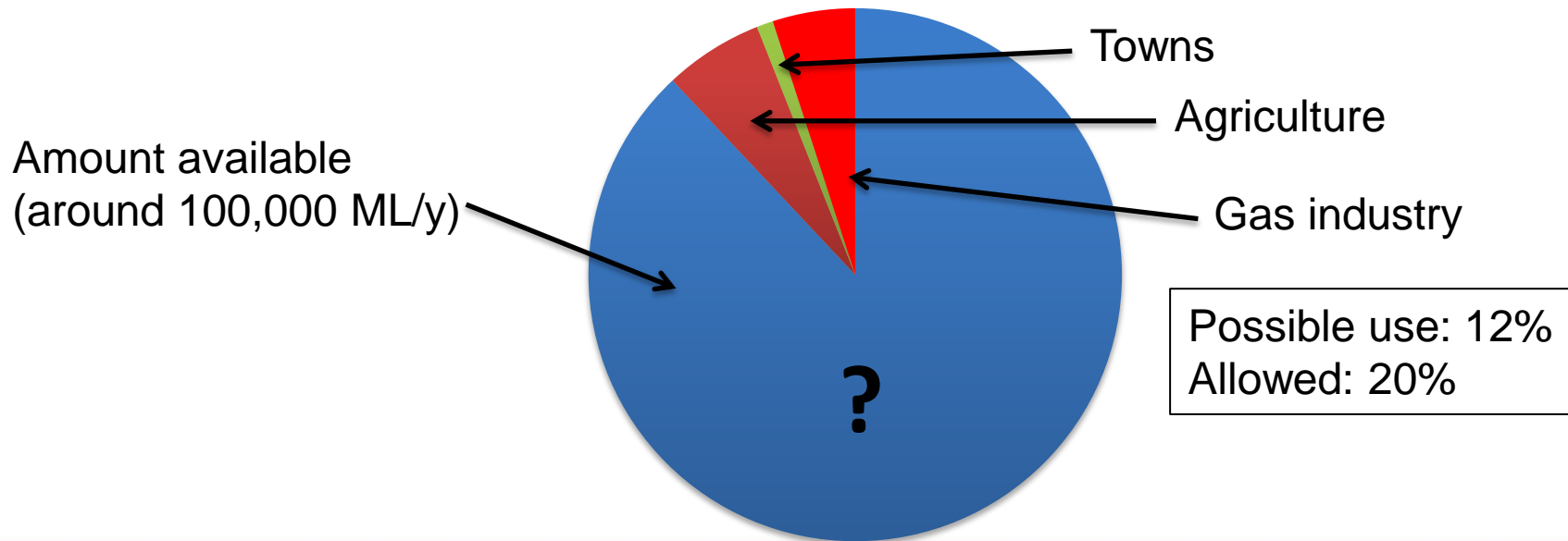
Beetaloo Sub-basin

- Panel is using it as a case study
- Good information available
- Development will probably happen here first





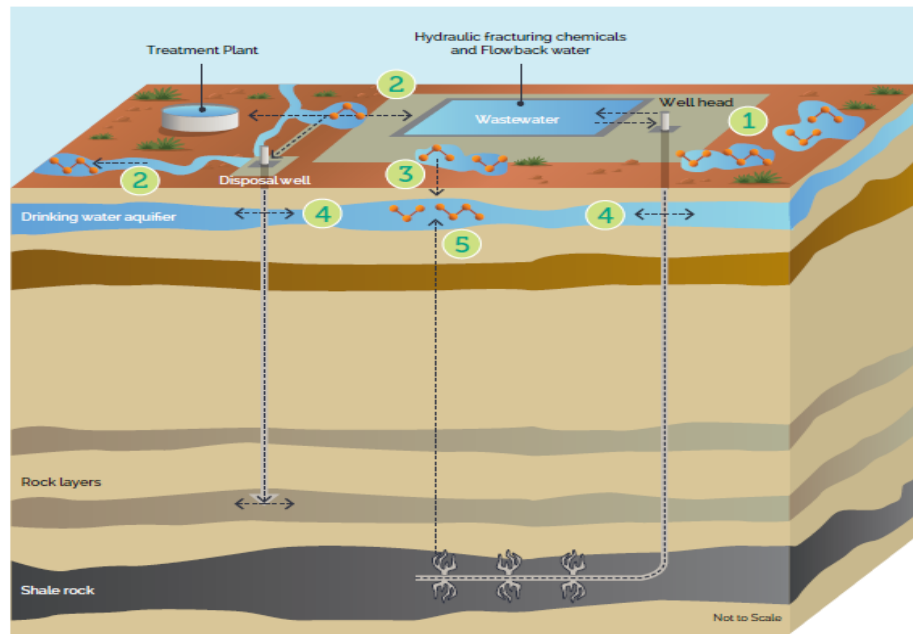
Water supply – Beetaloo Sub-basin





Water quality

- Spills (1,2,3)
- Leaky wells (4)
- Includes abandoned wells.
- Connection between fracked shale and water (5) – very unlikely





How the land looks

- Landscape transformation
- Heavy-vehicle traffic



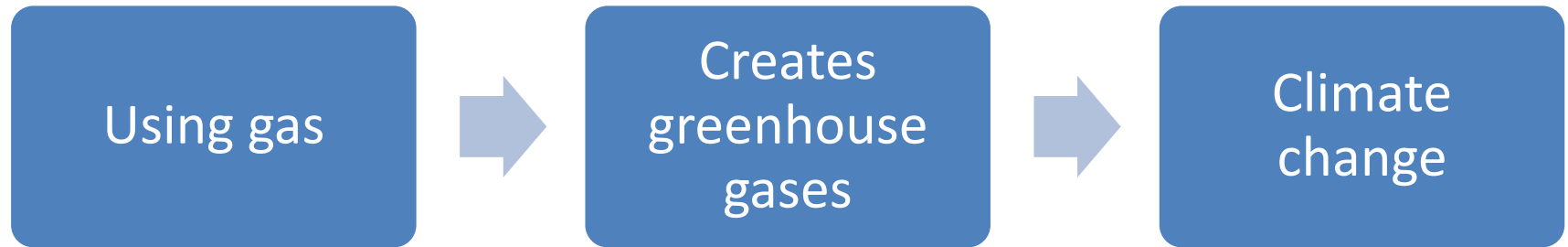


Plant and animal health

- Gas pipes and roads go in the wrong spot
- Weeds
- Fire
- Land clearing
- Spills



Greenhouse gas emissions





Shale gas – upstream emissions

Shale gas is mostly methane.

Some of it escapes from pipes and wellheads.

The Panel thinks that upstream emissions can be reduced.

A similar amount of methane will come from the NT cattle industry.





Shale gas – downstream emissions

We burn shale gas to make electricity.

Carbon dioxide is given off when methane is burned.

Burning gas is better for the environment than burning coal.





Public Health

1. What are the chemicals?
2. How can they get to humans?
3. Is it unsafe?



Other impacts on health

- Stress
- Noise, dust and other nuisances
- Impacts of increased road traffic



Aboriginal people and culture

- Aboriginal people live where the gas is
- Aboriginal people must be able to maintain their culture so that their ownership rights continue
- If landscape suffers so will Aboriginal people.



Social impacts

- Increased crime?
 - Increased humbug?
 - Increased royalty money?
-
- Panel asked Coffey to help identify social impacts
 - Coffey will look at the Beetaloo Sub-basin as a case study

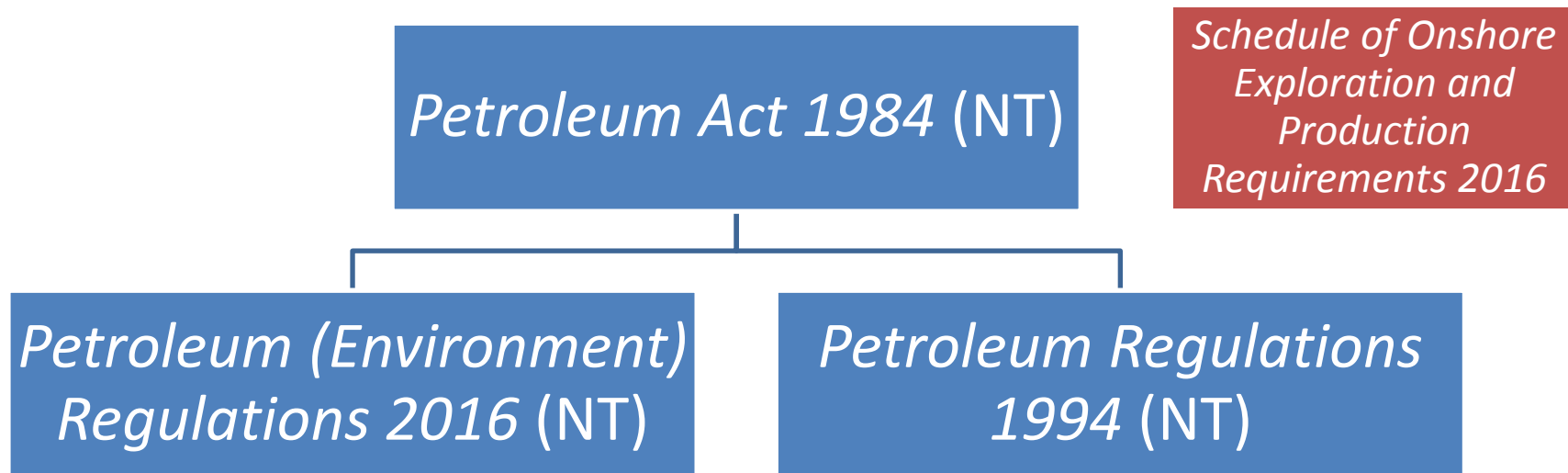


Economic impacts

- ACIL Allen is helping the Panel understand the money story for fracking
 - Jobs?
 - Business opportunities?
 - Royalties for Government?
 - Benefits for Traditional Owners?
 - Benefits for the community?



Current laws



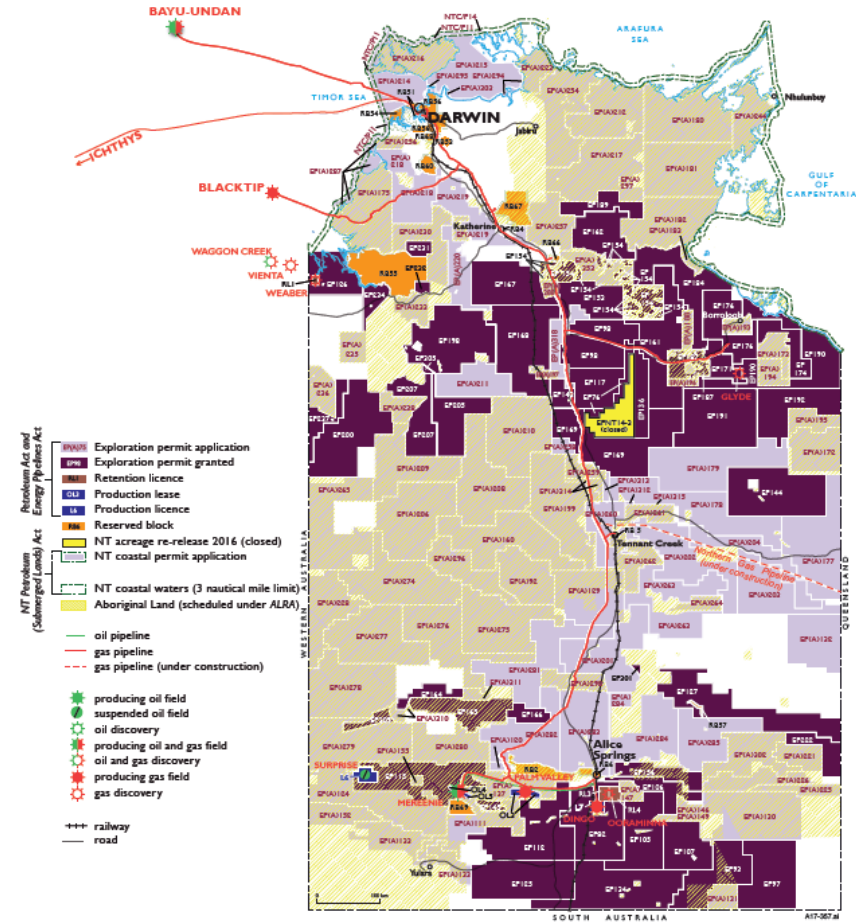


Key regulatory issues

- The Precautionary Principle
- Minimum standards
- Regulator
- Rehabilitation bonds
- Access to justice

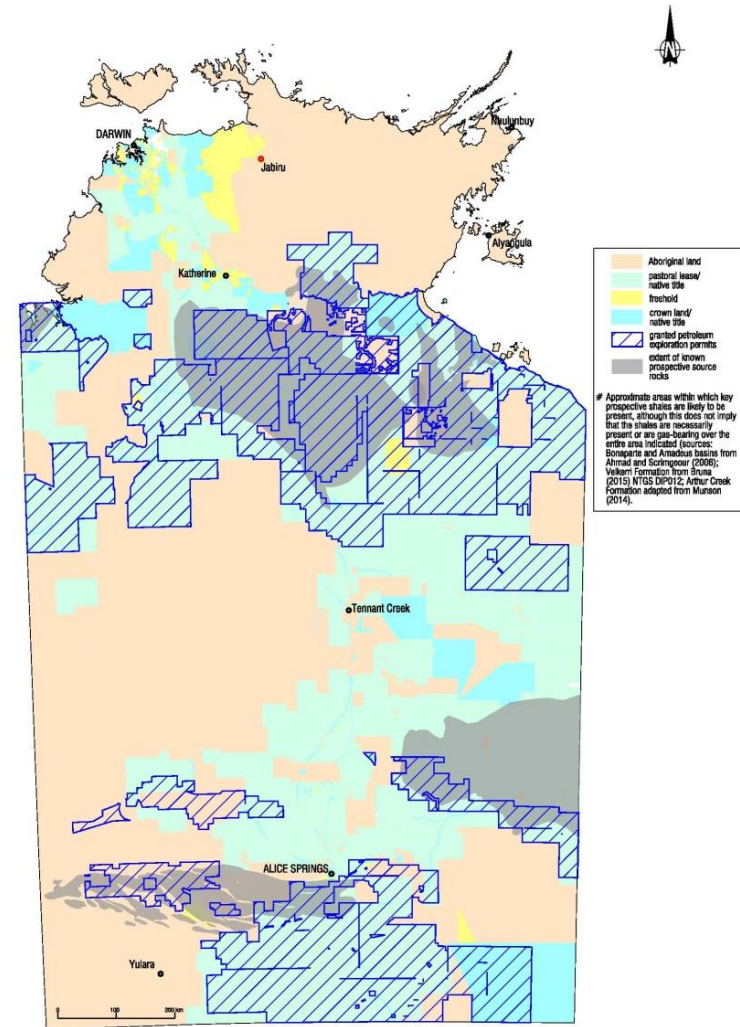
‘No-go’ zones

- What are they?
- Where should they be?
- How should they be implemented?



Land access

- Aboriginal land
- Native title
- Pastoral leases





Have Your Say

Anyone wishing to make a comment or provide a submission to the Inquiry is welcome to do so at any time.

Post

Post submission to:
Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry
GPO Box 4396, Darwin
NT 0801

Email

Send your submission to:
fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au

Online

Upload your submission to
the Inquiry's Have Your Say
page:
www.frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au



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