

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Department of Primary Industry
and Resources Submission #281

Mr Alister Trier
Chief Executive Officer
Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources
GPO Box 3000
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Mr Trier

RE: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INQUIRY – INFORMATION REQUEST

As you are aware, the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry is being held under the Northern Territory *Inquiries Act* which provides, under section 9 of the act, for powers to send for witnesses and documents relative to the activities of the Inquiry.

Following the public release of the Issues paper, and an extensive community consultation process, members of the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry are now progressing towards the production of an Interim report, scheduled to be released to the public in mid-2017. We thank you and your Department for the invaluable cooperation you have provided to the Inquiry to date.

To further assist the Inquiry process, there are a number of sources of information your Department has been identified as holding that the Inquiry requires access to. These are as follows:

Petroleum Resource Information

- Up to date published estimates of all potential shale and tight gas resources in the Northern Territory.
- Professional advice from the Department as to estimates of which (if any) of the resources are likely to be developed, the factors influencing this, and in what timeframe.
- Ranges of indicative gas volumes that could be developed and levels of confidence for these resources.
- All digital information relating to the boundaries of all potential shale and tight gas resources in the Northern Territory.
- All information relating to the geology and geochemistry of these prospective resources.

Petroleum Industrial Water Use Information

Using your Department's best available knowledge, please provide the following information where possible noting that I will be asking individual Onshore Petroleum companies for similar information:

- Estimates of water requirements of a potential gas industry for the life cycle of the industry, broken down into development stages i.e. exploration, drilling, production etc. (assumptions on likely development scenarios to be included).
- Likely source of water for potential developments.
- Estimates of volumes of waste water to be produced by a potential gas industry for the life cycle of the industry, broken down into development stages i.e. exploration, drilling, production etc. (assumptions on likely development scenarios to be included).
- Likely economical recycle rates for wastewater reuse.
- Best estimates of likely discharges (controlled and uncontrolled) into the environment from an industry detailing frequency, number quantity and quality.
- List of the likely chemicals in waste waters and their individual and combined toxicity.
- Details of storage, treatment and transport requirements for waste waters.

Primary Industry Resource Information

- Delineation of prime agriculture and pastoral areas indicating those of high value (e.g. Daly, Katherine, Darwin Rural).
- Estimates or modelling data of the production value of these areas and contribution to Northern Territory income.

Geographic data sources should be provided in ESRI shapefiles to GDA94 Datum. All data sources should include metadata where possible. Metadata to meet the following Australian New Zealand Land Information Council (ANSLIC) standards <http://www.anzlic.gov.au/resources/metadata>. For clarification on data requirements, please contact [REDACTED], Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce on [REDACTED]

The *Inquiries Act* provides protection for matters deemed confidential, however it is my intention wherever possible to have all information publically available. Can your Department please indicate which materials (if any) are not to be made publically available and provide the reasons for the determination for each.

Your Department may already be planning to submit this information as part of a separate submission to the Inquiry by the deadline of 30 April 2017, and if so I look forward to receiving this information in due course, noting the requirements above. If your Department is not intending to provide a submission to the Inquiry, or the material sought above doesn't form part of your submission, I ask that you meet our request as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

THE HON JUSTICE RACHEL PEPPER
Chair

27 April 2017