

CLERK

Response to Petition  
Procedure for Presentation  
Tuesday 17 October 2017

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ORIGINAL PAPER  
No. 459  
Laid upon the Table  
17 / 10 / 17

*(When **petition responses** are called for by Madam Speaker).*

CLERK

Madam Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 123 I inform Honourable Members that a response from the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources to Petition No. 11 has been received and circulated to Honourable Members.

The text of the response will be included in *Parliamentary Record* and placed on the Legislative Assembly website. A copy of the response will be provided to the Member for Katherine for distribution to the petitioners

*(an attendant will collect the petition response)*



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Petition**

Registration No.	11
Title	Moratorium on all unconventional oil and gas mining in the NT division of Lingiari for seven (7) years
Presented on	9 May 2017
Presented by	Ms Nelson, Member for Katherine
Referred to	Hon Ken Vowles, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
Date referred	10 May 2017
Response due	17 October 2017
Response received	16 October 2017
Response presented	17 October 2017

**Petition**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

MORATORIUM ON ALL UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS MINING IN THE NT DIVISION OF LINGIARI FOR SEVEN (7) YEARS

YOUR PETITIONERS HUMBLY PRAY THAT:

The NT Division of Lingiari has a moratorium on all unconventional oil and gas mining, (fracking) for seven years. This is so accurate data, both good and bad, can be obtained. The same protection as Darwin, Darwin Rural and Palmerston areas have been granted. We believe this mining poses substantial and unacceptable risks to the NT

Division of Lingiari, including but limited to:

- Contamination of the ground water;
- Storage issues for toxic waste water;
- Wells that will degrade over time;
- Depletion of the ground water/river systems;
- Increased seismic events;
- Destruction of our natural beauty and therefore the tourist industry;

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, As IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

**Response**

The Government made a commitment to Territorians at the 2016 election, that upon taking Government, it would impose a moratorium on the hydraulic fracturing of unconventional reserves in the Northern Territory and would conduct an independent scientific inquiry.

We have upheld this commitment and a moratorium has been in place since it was announced by the Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, on 13 September 2016.

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory is underway and is chaired by the Hon. Justice Rachel Pepper, who is overseeing a panel of 10 scientists. The inquiry will investigate the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs and associated activities in the Northern Territory.

At the end of that inquiry the Government, informed by the findings of the inquiry, will either ban fracking in the Northern Territory or allow it in highly regulated circumstances in tightly prescribed areas.





## MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES

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Mr Michael Tatham  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

*Michael*

Dear Mr ~~T~~atham,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 May 2017, in which you forwarded the terms of a Petition read in the Legislative Assembly on 9 May 2017 (Petition No. 11).

Pursuant to Standing Order 123, I am required to respond to a petition referred to me pursuant to Standing Order 122 within 12 Assembly meeting days of it being forwarded. Please consider my response below in response to the petition for presentation to the Assembly.

This Government made a commitment to Territorians at the 2016 election, that upon taking Government, it would impose a moratorium on the hydraulic fracturing of unconventional reserves in the Northern Territory and would conduct an independent scientific inquiry.

We have upheld this commitment and a moratorium has been in place since it was announced by the Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, on 13 September 2016.

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory is underway and is chaired by the Hon. Justice Rachel Pepper, who is overseeing a panel of 10 scientists. The inquiry will investigate the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs and associated activities in the Northern Territory.

At the end of that inquiry the Government, informed by the findings of the inquiry, will either ban fracking in the Northern Territory or allow it in highly regulated circumstances in tightly prescribed areas.

Yours sincerely

KEN VOWLES

16/10/17