

## Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 Submission

Pauline Cass

Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee  
Email: [EPSC@nt.gov.au](mailto:EPSC@nt.gov.au)

Dear Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee and Ministers,

This is my personal submission regarding the Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

Normally when I write a submission, I work my way through the Act and the Amendment Bill and write my comments. After careful consideration, I have not done that for this submission. Having studied the NT Fracking Inquiry's Final Report, I find the residual risks of hydraulic fracturing after implementing the 135 recommendations to still be too great. Their risk assessment matrix was unable to determine many of the "Residual risk" levels (Final Report Appendices, Appendix 3, pp. 15 - 23), and I do not accept the Final Report's definition of 'low risk' which is defined as "short-term (one week) impact on water availability" (Final Report, Ch.4, page 36). I feel that any comment I make on the Petroleum Act or the Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill will demonstrate a non-existent acceptance for something I find unacceptable.

I used to believe that submission writing was a valuable way to ensure our voices are heard and reflected in new legislations. Sadly, after speaking with many people about submission writing for this Bill (and the many other recent documents which required submissions), I am now doubting the whole community participation process. The sentiment and feedback I have received during my conversations all contained the same themes of: 'why bother, they don't listen any way' and 'it's a done deal with this mob, we'll have to vote them out next election to stop fracking'. The decision to lift the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing has totally destroyed people's trust in Government and their faith in the system. The majority of people want hydraulic fracturing to be banned and we are fed up with a Government which refuses to listen.

I request that the EPSC reject this Bill and recommend that a new Amendment Bill be drafted, one that reflects the will of Territorians, stating that hydraulic fracturing for onshore shale oil and gas be banned throughout the Northern Territory.

Yours Sincerely,

Pauline Cass