

From: [Amanda K](#)
To: [LA Committees](#); [Electorate Brennan](#); [Minister Boothby](#)
Subject: Anti-Fracking Letter
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Attachments: [Anti-fracking.pdf](#)

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Good morning.

My name is Amanda Toeta, and I am a resident living in the Brennan district. I wanted to submit a letter against fracking to my lovely Brennan district members, but also to the committees.

I am going to be a dual citizen soon (waiting for my ceremony from City of Palmerston) and have lived in Rosebery and Australia (the entirety in Darwin) for the last five years. I love Australia. It has become home to me and there are so many beautiful and diverse things about this country that I have come to call home. I am originally from the United States, and I am currently looking on in horror at the things my sisters are currently worried about back home, important programs being cut, and then I see that my own local government is trying to push a law for fracking.

Fracking is extremely detrimental to our environment. I have laid out some reasons in the attached letter that I encourage you to read.

We have a responsibility as people living in Australia to take care of our land and ensure that future generations are able to use the resources that Australia has to offer.

Please do not pass this bill. I implore you to find it in your hearts to read what I have written, as it's scientifically backed by fracking in the United States.. Please do your own research into fracking and see the problems with it. Please, instead, look at ethically sourced renewable energy instead for the development of the Northern Territory.

Thank you very much,

Amanda Toeta

Dear reader,

I am writing to address my concern with the new legislation that the CLP is trying to pass in regards to infrastructure in the Northern Territory, and my concerns that it will have on our current environment and future generations to come. I will write this in an outline format to be easy to follow:

A. Fracking

- a. Fracking is the process of blasting huge volumes of water, mixed with toxic chemicals and sand deep into the earth to fracture rock formations and release oil and natural gas.
 - i. In the United States, an average fracking system for ONE WELL can use between 1.5 million and 9.7 million gallons of water. This is 5,678,117 to 36,718,494 litres of water in Australia. (Information gathered from nrdc.org)
 1. This is a concerning amount of water because Australia has a current limit on water use, with restrictions implemented across the country to lessen the amount of water consumption.
 - a. Our water supply for our beautiful country is extremely dependent on two phenomena called El Niño and La Niña. El Niño causes decreased rainfall and severe drought conditions and scientists see an increase in water consumption. With the drought conditions caused by El Niño, Australia is at a significantly higher risk for heatwaves and bushfires. El Niño can also be exacerbated by climate change. La Niña causes rain across dryer parts of Australia, and there is less water consumption during this time.
 - i. El Niño and La Niña occur every two to seven years. This is an extreme risk for Australia to be using 5,678,117 to 36,718,494 litres of water to frack a SINGLE well, when normal citizens are restricted during drought seasons to run a sprinkler or a pool.
 - b. The water consumption for fracking projects also continually increases with the demand of oil and natural gas.
 2. Fracking uses groundwater supplies, and there have been reports from communities across the world that state that there have been strains on their drinking water and irrigations.
 - a. Water also gets taken from freshwater ecosystems
 - i. Why is this a problem? Why can't we just give the water back when we have used it? It is too contaminated to use without extensive treatment, so most companies dispose of it underground. That's again, 5,678,117 to 36,718,494 litres of water to frack a single well taken from Australia's freshwater sources, CONTAMINATED AND WASTED.

- b. Every year, the oil and gas industry generates billions of gallons of wastewater (4,404,883,800 litres per 1 billion gallons), a potentially hazardous mixture of flowback (used fracking fluid), produced water (naturally occurring water that is released with the oil and gas), and any number of other naturally occurring contaminants ranging from heavy metals, salts, and toxic hydrocarbons like benzene to radioactive materials such as uranium.
- c. Information gathered from nrdc.org: Air pollution from oil and natural gas production, including fracking activities, is a serious problem that threatens the health of nearby communities. Flaring (a controlled burn used for testing, safety, and waste-management purposes), venting (the direct release of gas into the atmosphere), leaking, combustion, and release of contaminants throughout the production, processing, transmission, and distribution of oil and natural gas are significant sources of air pollution.
 - i. Natural gas is made up mostly of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that traps more than 80 times as much heat as carbon dioxide. The oil and gas sector is the largest domestic industrial source of methane pollution. When gas is flared, vented, or accidentally leaked, it accelerates the costly health impacts of climate change. Oil and gas operations, such as hydraulic fracturing, also release numerous toxic air contaminants: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene; fine particulate matter (PM2.5); hydrogen sulfide; silica dust; and nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, which produce smog when combined. In rural northeastern Utah, researchers estimated that the amount of smog-forming compounds coming from oil and gas operations each year was equivalent to the emissions of 100 million cars. A broad range of health effects are associated with exposure to these air pollutants, including mild to severe respiratory and neurological problems, heart issues, kidney issues, birth defects, cancer, and premature mortality. Meanwhile, industry workers face even greater risks from on-site exposure to toxic chemicals and other airborne materials, including silica (the main component of frac sand), which can lead to lung disease and cancer when inhaled.
- d. To even begin fracking, the site has to be developed, and there is intense industrial development that has to take place. Well pads have to be built and installed, access roads, pipelines, and utility corridors. All of this would have round-the-clock noise and truck traffic, in addition to the noise, lights, and building degrading our local animal habitats.

We, as Australians, have a responsibility to preserve this land for future generations. If we are wasting and contaminating water, and risking our ecosystems for natural gas and oil instead of looking into sustainable options, what resources will be left for our children and their children? What will our ozone layer that protects us from UV Radiation look like in the next five years when our UV Index is constantly high? What will our cancer projections look like due to UV exposure, silica, or groundwater contamination? What will our ecosystems look like? Are we going to have three-eyed fish from the Simpsons because we are mismanaging disposal of toxic chemicals? We have a duty to our past and we have to respect our land so that we can continue living on it without serious detrimental

consequences. I want my children to see the Australia I see, and fall in love with the beauty and uniqueness that Australia's ecosystems have to offer. I don't want Australia to look like my home country of the United States and see it be a barren, smog-filled ruinous Hellhole where water is contaminated (Flint, Michigan), or a nuclear power reactor has an issue (Three Mile Island). We need to do our duty to our land and protect it, and by protecting it we need to consider ETHICAL renewable energy.

Please consider what I have said. As the fate of our beautiful territory is reliant on your decisions.

Amanda Toeta