

To the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee
EPSC@nt.gov.au

Water Legislation Amendment Bill

Dear Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee

Hello. I am writing this submission as a concerned Territorian, in regards to the changes in the Water Legislation Amendment Bill.

With the three Acts being released at the same time and limited time to read and respond:
Please consider this submission and its content.

The Fracking Inquiry Panel Recommendations were to be implemented to minimise the risks and to ensure the safety of the waterways, Aquifers and land.

Submitting, attending and following the Fracking Inquiry Panel and the 135 Recommendations to mitigate the risks, it is noted that the recommendations are not implemented in the latest changes in the Acts.

Fracking using surface water or water from an Aquifer and re-injecting into the ground should be prohibited. Fracking has no social licence or social benefits. Injecting **millions of litres of water** mixed with chemicals into the ground at high force. The water is then just toxic waste.

Water should not be put at risk by pollution or contamination by the mining, petroleum, Fracking industries. Also including UCG-Unconventional Coal Gasification = igniting coal underground to release gas.

Water is a precious resource and should be protected.

All waterways and Aquifers in the NT are connected and not fully understood.
Water is already allocated and limited in the NT.

The Policies needs to be tighter with more protection for all the Waterways and Aquifers in the NT.

The amount of water that the mining, petroleum and Fracking industries use, they will require a license to extract water.

As stated in the Fracking Inquiry Recommendations;

7.1 Gas Companies are to have a licence to extract water for Fracking activities.

Drilling Licence to drill or extract water.

7.2 There should be **no exemptions** for mining, petroleum, Fracking or UCG industries.

7.6 Surface water should not be used.

2016 Act;

The removal of part 1, section 7 in the Water Act 2016 would be more appropriate for the Amended Act 2018, considering the changes throughout the Acts.

Division 2 -16- Pollution:

Polluted/contaminated waste water should not be allowed to interfere or with any waterways, Aquifers, water bores, pastoral or other, while in the course of carrying out mining or petroleum activities, on or off the site.

Should also include the words 'prevent pollution, **contamination or Deterioration of the water quality** in the bore', waterways, Aquifers, and including Disposing waste directly or indirectly into ground water while carrying out mining & petroleum activities on or off the site.

Waste water should not be stored in dams or re-injected into the ground, nor in any waterways, but should be put in an enclosed container for transportation to a treatment plant; while in the course of carrying out mining or petroleum activities on or off the site.

Should add the words 'Contaminated' waste.

The millions of litres of waste water/chemicals these industries use, needs to be stored, transported and disposed of correctly. Waste should not be left on the mining site as it could cause pollution/contamination within the site. Mining licence site expand many kilometres. Waste remaining on the mining licence site has the potential to pollute/contaminate waterways, Aquifers Pastoral water bores, cultural water sites and the ecology.

Interfere with a waterway

-should also include **Water Quality and Contamination** of waterways and Aquifers.

Chemicals, polluted waste water or other substances that leech into waterways should be Prohibited and companies legally charged.

It's a criminal offence to pollute or contaminate waterways & diminish enjoyment of human, animals and land.

Liability should be a responsibility for sustainability while carrying out mining and petroleum activities.

Penalty Units: All penalty units should be much higher than what is written in the Act.

Other States in Australia have higher penalty units. As is; 500 penalty units is only \$77,500.

The penalty units should be at least \$1,000,000. -Higher penalties are to deter and ensure the Industries use proper care and management and to prevent illegal drilling or re-injecting waste pollution/ contamination anywhere on the site and into waterways or Aquifers, while carrying out mining & petroleum activities on or off the site.

Legality to manage/stop risks that threatens natural sustainability, human rights and natural biodiversity, should also be implemented in this Act, to prevent companies suing.

People are getting disillusioned that their Mental & Emotional Wellbeing is being greatly affected.

Clean, quality, uncontaminated Water is necessary for the survival of people, food sources and land.

Water should not to be put at risk by pollution or contamination by the mining, petroleum, Fracking industries.

There are no social or economic benefits to the Territory.

The damage pollution/contamination that impacts on the waters quality, quantity or sustainability to NT Waterways & Aquifers will be a catastrophe and unfixable.

It is detrimental the Bill ensures that the purpose of the Act is to 'protect the safety, health and wellbeing of Territorians, the water and the land.

regards,

Heidi Jennings