

10/3/19

Attn: Dr Jennifer Buckley

Committee Secretary

Economic Policy Scrutiny

Submission to address the Water Amendment Bill 2019

My first recommendation is that the Bill should not pass Parliament for the following reasons.

The fracking industry uses gegalitres of fresh water stores which the Northern Territory currently does not have reserves for.

According to Power and Water, the NT's water supplies are significantly low this year. It is already March 2019 and we have had very minimal rain.

Even if the NT's Aquifers are at full level we cannot afford to compromise their water quality, especially in regards to water extraction for mining (especially fracking). The Territory largely relies on surface water supplies in addition to our groundwater aquifers. If contaminated water is re injected, the risk of contaminated aquifers is very high. This has been witnessed countless times in other states of Australia. Once the contamination has taken place, this is irreversible.

Aquifers are often interconnected with other waterways allowing water to travel distances ensuring pollution enters various areas of our landscape.

In addition, the fracking industry produces a large amount of waste water which, if dumped in often leaky plastic lined ponds, is an environmental tragedy. This leads to further problems such as wildlife in the surrounding areas which perish.

There has not been enough long term scientific studies to confirm that fracking processes are safe and risk free.

I highly recommend that the Water Amendment Bill 2019 not pass Parliament.

Regards

Juliet Saltmarsh - Ex Account Manager - Power and Water Corporation, Environmental Scientist and Health Advisor