

2016
CONFERENCE

Territory
Labor



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT
TABLED DOCUMENTS

**Australian Labor Party Northern Territory Branch
2016 Conference Fracking Motion**

Committee:.....*ESTIMATES*.....

Paper No:*7-1*.....Date: *21.1.2016*

Preamble

Tabled By:.....*STYLES*.....

Signed:.....*[Signature]*.....

Territory Labor has a proud record of fighting to protect our unique natural assets and implementing world leading environmental protection in Government.

Labor understands that good environment policy is smart economic and social policy.

The next Territory Labor Government will build on this record by creating a world leading environmental protection framework that has sustainability at its core.

This framework will restore integrity and transparency to the process of environmental approval and monitoring, ensure that development is environmentally and economically sustainable and give business and industry the confidence to invest and create jobs.

Labor will transfer all environmental assessment, oversight and enforcement powers to the Department of Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority and we will properly fund these enforcement bodies to do their jobs.

Labor will also restore funding to non-government organisations and environmental watchdogs such as the Environment Centre NT and the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

Labor will have a Northern Territory energy policy that embraces, encourages and invests in existing and emerging renewable technology.

In particular, Labor will encourage the development of renewable energy programs that support the provision of energy to remote communities to reduce and ultimately remove reliance on fuels such as diesel.

Labor will promote the development of renewable energy in urban areas as a means of reducing the cost of power to households and reducing the Territory's carbon footprint. Territory Labor recognises the importance of and the community concern about hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' for gas from shale and tight formations. Territory Labor will guarantee that any activity taken relating to the shale gas industry in the Northern Territory will be both environmentally and financially sustainable for local communities. Territory Labor will consider all factors associated with the industry to determine its viability, including sustainable employment, environmental impacts, science based research, co-existence with other agricultural activities and landholder rights.

2016
CONFERENCE

Territory
Labor



Motion

Considering all factors associated with the development of an onshore shale gas industry and the timeframe needed to comprehensively review the science Territory Labor will implement a moratorium covering all unconventional gas prospecting exploration and extraction activities that will continue until the expiration of or the completion of:-

- a) an independent expert advisory panel who will undertake a scientific inquiry which will include a peer review of all work done on the unconventional gas industry in the Territory and will review recent science and its reported environmental impacts. The inquiry will include critical baseline groundwater and surface water studies to be undertaken; baseline fugitive emissions data collection; fault line mapping; baseline health impact assessment; and the identification of priority areas for protection in no go zones.
The panel will consist of reputable independent experts from fields such as environmental and biological science, water resources, eco toxicology, workforce planning, petroleum regulation and public health.
Labor will set into place world leading environmental protection policies, regulations and processes that will be properly funded to do their job.
- b) a thorough community consultation process during and following the panel report. The consultation would include relevant stakeholder and community groups and is to be transparent, genuine and will include regional and remote consultation such as landholders, traditional owners and their representatives and unions
- c) development of the regulatory framework ensuring appropriate environmental protections and safeguards

At the end of this process labor in government will decide to either:-

1. Ban hydraulic fracturing;
2. Allow hydraulic fracturing in highly regulated and tightly prescribed areas.

A progress report will be provided to each annual NT ALP conference.