



## Petition

Registration No.	63
Title	Ban Unconventional Onshore Gas Mining in NT
Presented on	26 May 2016
Presented by	Ms Purick (Member for Goyder)
Referred to	Minister for Mines and Energy (Hon David Tollner)
Date referred	26 May 2016
Response due	16 November 2016
Response received	24 June 2016
Response presented	27 June 2016

### Petition

A Petition to the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

To Ban Unconventional Onshore Gas Mining.

To the Speaker, Chief Minister and Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Unconventional onshore gas mining poses a profusion of risks with catastrophic consequences to the Northern Territory. There is a plethora of both scientific and anecdotal evidence that 'fracking' causes water contamination, water depletion, air pollution, earthquakes, noise pollution, traffic issues, social issues, health issues, and releases climate changing greenhouse gases. It will negatively impact tourism, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, and everyday life. We can live without gas but we can't live without clean air and water.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Northern Territory, do respectfully demand that unconventional gas mining (fracking) be banned in the Northern Territory.

### Response

Dear Mr Tatham

I refer to attached Petition No, 63 presented and read in the Legislative Assembly on 26 May 2016, and respond accordingly as the Minister for Mines and Energy. The NT Government understands there are community concerns about the emerging oil and gas industry in the Northern Territory (NT) and is committed to working with Territorians to develop a best-practice petroleum regulatory model in line with community expectations.

In March 2014, the Hon Adam Giles MLA, Chief Minister of the NT, appointed Dr Allan Hawke AC as the Commissioner of the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry under the Northern

Territory of Australia Inquiries Act This Inquiry was called in response to community concerns about hydraulic fracturing.

Dr Hawke's Report into hydraulic fracturing was tabled in Parliament 26 February 2015, and the NT Government accepted all six recommendations.

Dr Hawke's investigations reviewed the best scientific reports and evidence available and did consider such concerns as raised in the petition before reaching his conclusions. The key finding of the Hawke Inquiry is that the environmental risks associated with hydraulic fracturing can be managed effectively in the NT subject to the creation of a robust regulatory regime. The report is available for download from the Inquiry website at: <http://www.hydraulicfracturinginquiry.nt.gov.au>.

A comprehensive review of the NT's existing regulatory framework is underway with new Environment Regulations to be implemented by July 2016. These new regulations were finalised after the release of the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry report and they encompass the relevant recommendations and findings.

The NT Government also released Guiding Principles in 2015. The Guiding Principles cover land access, well design, construction and operation, water management, air and noise emissions, community and social impact, chemical and waste handling, rehabilitation and decommission and local content. The Guiding Principles set out the minimum expectations of how the oil and gas industry will conduct itself while the Territory's regulatory framework is also being reviewed. These Guiding Principles can be found online at [www.onshoreaas.nt.gov.au](http://www.onshoreaas.nt.gov.au).

There is a significant amount of misinformation in the public arena regarding the practice of hydraulic fracturing and other aspects of the oil and gas industry. To counter this, the Department of Mines and Energy has undertaken extensive community consultation and public forums to provide factual information on the hydraulic fracturing process. These consultations continue and the department is engaging with the CSIRO to provide independent factual information at these meetings.

Given all the measures that have been undertaken the NT Government is confident processes and practices are best-practice and the Department of Mines and Energy is well placed to regulate the industry.

I would like to thank the petition organisers and the members of the public who have taken the time to sign it.

Yours sincerely

David Tollner  
Minister for Mines and Energy  
16 JUN 2016