

**Good Afternoon..... Justice Pepper & Panel Members**

**Thank you..... for allowing me to have my say this afternoon..... at the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry**

**Firstly...I acknowledge that we drive cars, use bbq's and use some plastics products...therefore we do need some resource extraction.....But...**

**we also need water...for drinking, for showering, for swimming...its part of our everyday lives! I also understand that much of the gas extraction is for export.....at the expense of both our water and land.....**

**I'm a long time resident of Darwin's rural area..... and..... one of my main concerns is..... u guessed it.....WATER!**

**We live on one of the driest continents on this planet, Australia!**

**To quote PDF: Shale Gas Extraction WA – the amount of water extracted for fracking is between 5-25 million litres per well by approximately 10 fracks per well by thousands of wells, that's scary.....**

**To quote an article 'The water beneath our feet' by Dereck Eamus**

**Professor of Environmental Sciences..... at the University of Technology, Sydney**

**Previously worked with the Northern Territory University on Tropical Savannahs**

**"Declining groundwater is a big problem for Australia. The loss of groundwater poses serious threats to humans, crops and natural ecosystems that rely on it!"**

**I ask.....**

**Has anyone proven that the chemical injection of fracking is safe?**

**What is an acceptable risk?**

**When will Mining Companies pay..... and be accountable... for water usage.....and...Who independently monitors this.....as trucks have been filmed in Qld dumping waste water anywhere they can, as they must return empty.....**

**When will BTEX chemicals be banned in fracking? (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene)**

**In the Summary of the Interim Report....put out by the Inquiry..... it is mentioned that The Chair, the Deputy Chair and other relevant Panel Members will consult with**

**The Alberta Energy Regulator in Canada! How can we be assured this Regulator is actually independent?**

**There have been many instances of bad practice in the US and Canada with dreadful consequences for many citizens and communities living close to fracking wells.**

**To conclude.....I quote....the Northern Territory has an extraordinary amount of sunshine which is perfect for a solar industry....so...Do we want a future based on fossil fuels or.....alternate energies!**

**I leave this with you..... thankyou very much**