

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Ms Naomi Hogan
Lock the Gate Alliance

By email: naomi@lockthegate.org.au

Dear Ms Hogan

RE: ALLEGATIONS MADE BY LOCK THE GATE

I refer to your correspondence, on behalf of Lock the Gate Alliance (**Lock the Gate**), to the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory (the Inquiry)*, dated “9 February 2017” (sic).

Regrettably the Inquiry is unable to accommodate your request to phone-in and address the Panel during the public hearings in Tennant Creek.

As indicated by the Panel on 6 February 2018 during the public hearings in Darwin, the Panel does not accept that there was “a cover up of information by Origin Energy (**Origin**) as part of the NT Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing”. Having regard to the chronology of events outlined by me on that day – especially the fact that both diagrams the subject of your letter have been in the public domain since 25 May 2017, the explanation given by Dr David Close on behalf of Origin, the purpose of the provision of the diagrams and what each sought to depict, the Inquiry does not intend to pursue the matter further.

In your letter you again impute a mischievous intention to the presentation and provision of the two diagrams. At no point has “incorrect information” been provided to the Inquiry. Moreover, and contrary to your assertion, the Panel and the public, including Lock the Gate, have had access “to accurate unedited versions of evidence” since at least 25 May 2017.

Given the scandalous nature of your allegations against Origin and the Inquiry which have now been proven to be wholly incorrect, it remains a matter of considerable concern that no apology has been proffered by you, on behalf of Lock the Gate, to Origin or the Inquiry. Failure to do so has the very real effect of impugning the credibility of yourself and Lock the Gate.

Please note that your letter and this response will be treated as a submission and published on the Inquiry's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

THE HON JUSTICE RACHEL PEPPER
Chair

11 February 2018

Please direct all correspondence regarding the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing to:

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