



Darwin – 1 Territory Party

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Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin

Speaker: Braedon Earley

Braedon Earley: Thank you, Chair. My name is Braden Early. I'm the President of the 1 Territory Party.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Thank you.

Braedon Earley: I'm here representing the 1 Territory Party and its members.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Thank you very much.

Braedon Earley: I've put together a very brief submission. I didn't get the time that I was hoping to get so, 15 minutes, I think I've got 10 minutes to present and then 5 minutes for questions.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Yes.

Braedon Earley: That's what I understand.

Hon. Justice Pepper: You're just before the break so we're happy to go into the break if that needs be.

Braedon Earley: The ... panel, without prejudice. My name is Braedon Earley, born and raised in the Roper River. My wife was born in Darwin, as was my four children. I'm the President of the 1 Territory Party, and have been involved in Territory politics for the past 17 years. 1 Territory was founded on the back of banning fracking. My conflicts of interest are I am political and if elected, will ban fracking in the Northern Territory. I've worked in every major project in the Territory over the last 20 years. I've contracted to Inpex and Regulatory Controls, Government Approvals and Compliance.

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If

elected, I'll have an independent commission against corruption, ... into both the of the activities of the Anti-Labor party and the Country Liberal Party, corruption within the government department, starting with the mines department, this panel and of course, the appropriate whistle blower, protection legislation.



In 1987, I met a man at a cocktail party in London, it was at a castle. The party was being hosted by the Duchess of Kent. I was a bit out of sorts. Not long left my home and in the company of strangers. I was standing by myself, looking at an upright configuration of knight's armour when a voice from behind me asked, "What do you see?" And without turning, I answered, "A man who was scared of getting hurt." That's when I met David Attenborough. He asked me where I was from. I told him. He then proceeded to tell me all about my home. The science, the Green River, the Latin names of the different species of animals that made up its ecosystem, the heated water through the limestone aquifers, and the fragility of God's own country, the Roper River.

Now, in 2018, I'm before a panel of people I've never seen or heard of before. They've written a draft final report on how to frack the Northern Territory, and how to avoid the risks. There is no David Attenborough on this panel. Nothing like him. And for good reason, I imagine. And I'll show you why there's no David Attenborough on this panel. Item number one. I should really submit these.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Yes, please.

Braedon Earley: Sorry, I should have done that.

Hon. Justice Pepper: No, that's fine. That's fine. Thank you very much, Mr. Earley. If you've got us spare there ... If not, I'll sacrifice mine. But if you've got a spare, in due course, if that could be handed to the task force. Thank you. Thank you.

Braedon Earley: I've got a copy attached origin group internal order ... Proof that even the biggest and the best companies cannot meet their own regulatory for controls and compliance. The external approval is granted by governance. Coincidentally, this is one of three companies consulted and relied upon for industry information in the ACIL Allen. The economic impact for potential shale gas development in the Northern Territory. A report you the panel changed the terms of reference to obtain, and you the panel appointed. The companies that have operated in the Northern Territories in the past are no different. The legacies include Run Jungle Mine, Mount Todd, Sherwin Iron, Red Bank Oil Platform. Questions should be asked of existing operations and regulatory controls in government approval including ... McArthur River Mine ... Item 2 is an extract from Falcon Oil and Gas. Further proof that the Northern Territory is signalling to warn the financial markets that fracking is going to proceed in the Territory. It's a UK based company and a joint venture with Origin Beetaloo Basin.

Item 3 is a brochure. Further proof beyond reasonable doubt the Territory government is promoting fracking, well before the findings of the fracking core has been released. The brochure highlights the potential of the industry and the potential investment opportunity. Item 4. No conflicts of interest have been declared by the consultants or industry sources or Northern Territory government sources ACIL Allen consulting produced, the economic impacts of potential shale gas development Northern Territory. Most of those companies and people interviewed by this company are either pro-



fracking, or in the industry. Most of the industry informed, information used is pro-fracking. This report cannot be relied on without any bias towards the industry. I cannot find anywhere listed any of the panel members conflicts of interest nor can I find anywhere any of the consultants you've used and their conflicts of interest, It's fair to say, the Territory Labour party would not have been elected in the last election if it wasn't for 1 Territory preferencing them.

Or NT Labour following our lead and announcing they would put a moratorium in place on fracking if elected. But Federally Labour Australia wide is pro-fracking, prior to the Territory election. NT Labour got elected on the back of stopping fracking. They got elected and now they need third-party verification to lift the moratorium in order for the fracking to proceed. Enter the scientific Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing of unconventional reservoirs in the Northern Territory. This panel has had affirmation, required by the Labour Party to frack. Your report is what will be used by a Labour government, that has tricked the voters, to allow fracking to proceed.

If the panel cannot declare their conflict of interest, if the consultants the panel has used do not declare their conflict of interest, that's financial, commercial, political, social conflicts of interests. Then this submission into hydraulic fracking should not be submitted or taken seriously when determining fracking in the Northern Territory. Hence, we believe this Inquiry is compromised, and it's finding should not be taken seriously. There is no David Attenborough on this panel because he would not compromise the safety of the environment of the Northern Territory for jobs, financial gain or regulatory controls.

I do not wear a suit of armour. I'm no David Attenborough. I'm not afraid of getting hurt to protect the pristine waters of Northern Territory from fracking. And I think you'd be surprised just how many Territorians feel exactly the same way as me. Your drafted final report does not reflect the views of the majority of Territorians. This report does not justify the onshore hydraulic fracturing of the Northern Territory. There is no social licence to frack the NT. When elected 1 Territory will ban fracking conducting Inquiry in the Northern Territory. Attached ... the brochure that I referred to and attached is the internal audit into compliance failures within a gas company. And that's what it looks like, when they do internal reports and that's just a very small one.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Is this in relation to all of Origin's programme?

Braedon Earley: Well I can't go into too much more detail about it Justice, but if you can have a look at it.

Hon. Justice Pepper: As you can see this is what we all immediately have turned to and flicking through now. So I'm just wondering what it relates to.

Braedon Earley: It relates to their internal audit process with regards to compliance.

Hon. Justice Pepper: In relation to what?



Braedon Earley: Their internal reviews in regards to compliance and approvals.

Hon. Justice Pepper: In relation to gas?

Braedon Earley: In relation to their activities.

Hon. Justice Pepper: All of them?

Braedon Earley: That's my understanding.

Hon. Justice Pepper: That's what I was trying to clarify.

Braedon Earley: It refers to South Australia, Western Australia and I think activities in New Zealand.

Hon. Justice Pepper: That's what I was trying to find out.

Braedon Earley: I just add ... That I've been involved in just about every major project, in the Northern Territory in the last 20 years. And that's iron ore, railway line building and gas plant building. That's both gas plants. If any company or any business comes to the Northern Territory, and it doesn't matter who the government of the day is they're all the same in my books. They get major project status and they get waivers on compliance and on regulatory controls and on approvals. And it's been proving time and time and time and time again. And there's nothing no one can do or say after the event. Sherwin Iron went and pulled out millions in tonnes of oil without an improved environmental impact statement. Some of the other things that the other people have done I can't talk about because I was too close to the activity, but it's horrendous. The complicit nature of those involved in government departments in the approval process, is outrageous. And it's all approved by ministers of the day and it doesn't matter if they're wearing red shirts or blue ones.

No amount of recommendations is going to stop someone in a government department from taking a bribe. No amount of recommendations is going to stop some bloke from making a mistake on a site, and I know and most of you would know cause you've lived long enough to see it. Men and women make mistakes. And it happens when you work long hours, and it happens when you work remote and it happens when you work under pressure and you've got timelines and deadlines to meet. Everyone know that you can't mess around with concrete when it's going off, you put it in or it goes off, you can't re-use it. There are no concrete plants at Amungee. There's none in between Borroloola and three ways. All of things that these people want to do, cannot be overseen. They cannot be regulated in any efficient way. Even trucking companies struggle to regulate drivers and driving in daylight hours with GPS tracking and trucks. How in God's name will they monitor the traffic management plan for the hundreds of thousands of vehicles that will be required in this activity.

My experience is first hand, it's on the ground. It just so happens that I was fortunate enough to meet that bloke David Attenborough. But I can tell you



a green river is an alive river. That's what it means to be green. It's green because of all the stuff coming out of the heated limestone, all the micro-organisms that make up that river system. You cannot introduce any chemicals into it. You drop a radiator in the Roper River all the green stuff around it, will die. You drop a brass top on top of a poly pipe in the middle of the river and all that area around it will pull back. All the weeds move away from the brass. None of the aboriginals I know want this, and I know a lot of aboriginals and they all live on the Rope River.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Any questions? I just wanted one point of clarification because I just don't understand what you're saying here. You said with the economic impacts with ACIL Allen that their report changed the terms of reference?

Braedon Earley: Well the last time you and I had a conversation Justice, there was no economic consultants in this terms of reference.

Hon. Justice Pepper: This is a reference to the terms of reference setting up the Inquiry.

Braedon Earley: The terms of reference of Inquiry. There was no terms of reference covering the economic impact, of this activity. And after you and I had a conversation ... I think it was ... I think it was in this building, that there was an economic consultant appointed to address the economic impact. So there terms of reference of this Inquiry have been changed. And then I think that, that economic consultant, he changed his terms of reference again. Is that correct?

Hon. Justice Pepper: No, those terms of reference were drafted by us. I should just add, just for the benefit of the recording, that the terms of reference define environment to mean land, air, water, organisms and eco-systems, and includes. And then we've got A, B, C ... D economic, cultural and social conditions.

Braedon Earley: So, the terms of reference weren't changed?

Hon. Justice Pepper: No

Braedon Earley: But there was no economic consultant. When I first spoke to you there was no economic ... Perspective going to be put to this report until you and I had a conversation. I said where's the economic thing and I think you said something along the lines of we're going to look into that or we are looking into that or something. Or words to that effect. Is that correct?

Hon. Justice Pepper: That's right. So, it was always envisaged because we have no economist on the panel. And I've said this in public fora many times. We simply don't have any economists on the panel that we would therefore have to engage an economist. And we put that out to public tender. The scope of works were there, they're still on our website for all the world to see.

Braedon Earley: Well I am an economist. And there's so many educated people in the Northern Territory, that haven't had the opportunity to participate at the appropriate level into this debate. And I'm talking educated people at Jilkminggan as well, that are 50 years of age that speak English better than



me. That aren't being heard and that aren't being able to deliver or get across their message into this Inquiry.

Hon. Justice Pepper: We been to Jilkminggan and I'm going there next week as well.

Braedon Earley: And I did speak to you about this too Justice, a lot of them are muzzled. And a lot of them aren't game enough to come out and speak with regards to ... You would be an intimidating bunch, to some of those people out there and so I don't know that, and I've had first hand report. And they were pleased that you did go out there but there were people that didn't get to talk. And those people, the old mum Sheila Conway and all them ladies, they get to say their bit because they're used to, speaking up for everyone. But the ones that are my age that didn't get to talk to you, particularly the girls, have got a lot more to say. And they're feeling a lot more angst and anguished about this whole process. There's no signs along the Roper River that says don't drink this water or don't eat this fish from here. It doesn't work like that. And for people to say I've lived here for 35 years and I understand the Territory well, unless you've been sitting on the banks of the Roper River during the wet season when it floods, you really don't understand the Roper River.

And those people that rely on it and hold it in absolute sanctimony, anything that interferes with that river is sacrosanct. I just don't understand why anyone, would want to interfere with that. I read the final page of your report and you were talking about the budgerigar and brolgas and this and the that and one thing and another. It doesn't actually work like that because a lot of people, and it doesn't matter whether they're black or white, green yellow or brindle, that are from the Territory, and they don't even have to be born here, have a physical and psychological connection to this place. And it doesn't matter that they can't see it. It doesn't matter that you tell 'em it's right or whatever. If they think somethings not right, it's not right and that's what you're dealing with, with a majority of people that live in the bush. They don't think it's right, they don't trust what they're hearing. They don't trust the people making the decisions. And again it doesn't matter what colour shirt they wear, whether it's blue or red.

Now the last guys got rolled, the Country Liberals got rolled, because they were going to go and frack. These guys got elected because they put a moratorium in place. And if they didn't put a moratorium in place, and they didn't get elected, then we wouldn't be having this discussion.

Hon. Justice Pepper: The final comment I wanted to make was that in relation to the CV's of all of the panel members, myself included, they are up, again, on the website. So, you can find out, as I said the employment backgrounds of all of the panel members.

Braedon Earley: Thank you.

Hon. Justice Pepper: And certainly there were property checks that were put into place prior to all of our appointments. Thank you very much for coming and spending the time and presenting here today. Thank you.



Braedon Earley: Thanks Justice Pepper. Thanks Panel.