

From: Sean Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 September 2022 12:10 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: Exploration Licence, Tipperary/Litchfield, EP218
Attachments: Sean Ryan.docx; Sean Ryan.docx

Sean Ryan

[REDACTED]
N.T. 0821

TO Hon. Nicole Manison, Minister for Mining and Industry,

Re: Petroleum Exploration Licence, EP 218.

My name is Sean Ryan and I live on my 20 acre block at [REDACTED] Livingstone, Litchfield Shire. Among thy many public and political issues over many years that I try to keep abreast of, I consider environmental issues to be of the utmost importance. I object to the recent issuing of a Petroleum exploration licence, EP 218, to Arafura Oil for the following reasons.

Firstly, I find it premature to expand the fracking industry when numerous recommendations made by the Pepper Inquiry have not as yet been settled or implemented. An important one being the issues around the storage ponds for the waste chemical water produced in the fracking process.

Secondly, I am concerned that the increased traffic loads , much of which would be heavy industry, on already unsafe roads in the exploration licence area would create very unsafe road/driving conditions. These roads in an area seasonally inundated with very large rainfall. These roads are continually accessed by community people from Daly River, Woolianna, Peppimenarti, Nganambala, Palumpa, Wadeye plus numerous other homelands, not to mention fishers with boat trailers, tourists, contactors, teachers, nurses and many other NT Government employees.

Thirdly, there is a risk of water contamination of the aquifers in the claim area. The Daly ground water aquifers include the Florina, Jinduckin, Ooloo Dolostone and the Tindal Limestone formations. I strongly feel that the risk of water contamination in these aquifer formations should be enough alone to not grant this Exploration licence!! What base data presently exists on these formations and their possible interactions??

I hope that that my objections as listed will be considered by you as Minister and that my strong objection to the granting of Exploration licence EP 218 be noted. Please acknowledge receipt of my letter.

Yours sincerely, Sean Ryan. 19/09/22.

Srijitra Muir

From: Alan Roe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 September 2022 5:06 PM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: Objection to petroleum Exploration License EP218
Attachments: Objection_EP218.docx

See attached document

[REDACTED] Robin Falls NT 0822 Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

18/09/2022

Objection to Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218

Attention: The Hon. Nicole Manison, Minister of Mining and Industry.

Dear Minister Manison

I hope you and your team are well. I am writing to yourself (copied to the Chief Minister and Minister for Environment Climate Change and Water Security) to register a deep objection to the application for petroleum exploration licence EP218 sought by Arafura Oil Pty. My property lies across the road from Tipperary station and lower parts of my property lie within the catchment of the Upper Adelaide River that receives runoff from the within the exploration licence area. My family and I therefore stand to be impacted both directly and indirectly by any exploration activity and subsequent resource development. For simplicity I am confining myself to three general points of objection, each of which I believe is sufficient grounds to deny the exploration permit application.

1. The direct impacts of exploration

As the Ministers will be aware, the Dorat road and Daly River road intersection is home to a rural residential community where people, (including young families with small children) have chosen to build a life. Additional vehicles and personal and exploratory operations within the boundaries of EP218 will impact on resident populations through disturbance of soil and increased sediment loads and possibly pollutants flowing downstream into the creeks and waterways of local residents.

We further understand that exploration and development activities will increase local demand for ground water resources, far in excess of the domestic and light agricultural water currently extracted within the catchment. Obviously if this happened, it would directly threaten the lives and livelihood of the local community. We are also concerned of the potential for toxic and hazardous wastes being discharged into our waterways or discarded in our local environment.

Fire is currently the primary natural hazard for our community and we believe that having exploration teams working on neighbouring properties would increase the risk of wildfires, by people who have no vested interest in the long term health and sustainability of the region. We further believe the movement of vehicles on and off Tipperary station will accelerate the spread of noxious weeds as Gamba grass (which grows widely across Tipperary as a forage) and is a listed weed of national significance (WoNS). We believe the increased movement of vehicles on and off that property will hasten the spread of that weed and so the risks to life and property from fire.

I believe the Northern Territory Government has a responsibility to protect the wellbeing and interests its constituents. Unfortunately in our district we are aware that current regulations are constantly flouted without enforcement, (e.g. illegal ignition of fires, trespass, the illegal discharge of firearms around our homes, failure to control weed and unmanaged firebreaks), and so have no reason to

believe that any additional regulation binding the exploration activities of Arafura Oil would be enforced.

2. Indirect impacts

Residents of the upper Dorat Road and Daly River road must already contend with extremely hazardous road and traffic conditions. The road is very narrow, winding and is often driven by drivers from Darwin or interstate at high speed towing caravans or boats who unfamiliar with local road conditions. There is also a high density of wildlife and stock wandering across the road. It is a miracle that there has not yet been a serious accident involving a local resident.

Like so many aspects of our district there is very little regulation or enforcement of compliance with traffic regulations.

Consequently, we believe Dorat Road is entirely unsuitable for additional heavy vehicles or for increased traffic frequency. Increased road use would contribute to the degrading the road surface quality (eroded road edges and potholes). Increased traffic and petroleum exploration on Tipperary and Litchfield stations would further reduce the extraordinary amenity in some of the Territory's most scenic landscapes.

3. Moral impact

There is a growing scientific and political consensus in the world that fossil fuel related emissions are have been driving global climate change, which already threatens the lives and livelihoods of millions both internationally and across Australia. Decision makers everywhere are forced to make hard choices to decide between short-term corporate profit and the long term future of our collective wellbeing and the security of future generations. Like many across Northern Territory electorates, we do not believe that investment in fossil fuels exploration and development remains an ethical choice.

Does the Northern Territory Government not recognise that climate change represents a potentially existential crisis for human society? It seems inconceivable that in 2022 a Territory Government would be considering granting an exploration permit for new fossil fuels development.

We very much hope that you will decide it is in the best interest of the Northern Territory community to withhold exploration Licence EP218.

Many thanks for considering our objection.

Dr Alan Roe

Dr Ilka Schacht

Srijitra Muir

From: Ingrid Witte [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 6:29 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Dheran Young
Subject: Objection to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Permit EP218
Attachments: Objection to Granting of Exploration Permit 218 iw.pdf

Dear Minister:

Please find attached a document stating my reasons for objecting to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Permit EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. A written copy has been mailed to your Department. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Ingrid Witte

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Robin Falls

Ph: [REDACTED]

OBJECTION TO GRANTING OF EXPLORATION
PERMIT 218 (SECTION 18 OF THE
PETROLEUM ACT NT) LODGED BY ARAFURA
OIL PTY LTD

OBJECTION LODGED BY THE LANDHOLDER:

Dr Ingrid Witte, [REDACTED] Robin Falls NT 0822

To: The Honourable Nicole Madison MLA
Minister for Mining and Industry
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade,
GPO Box 4550
Darwin NT 0801

15 September 2022

Dear Minister:

I, Ingrid Witte, object to the granting of an Exploration Permit (EP218) to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. Your petitioner is a member of a community that own and occupy freehold portions along Daly River and Dorat roads, fanning out from the junction of these two roads. Our landholdings share continuity with the aquifers, geology, climate, landscapes and road network serving the Tipperary Group's properties over which EP218 is proposed. Furthermore, we are acutely aware of a shared atmosphere through local smoke pollution largely arising from unplanned fires as a result of arson.

The members of our community exercise skills in natural resource management and advocacy for the appreciation and conservation of the Territory's terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity; health, research and education, tourism, cultural resource management, business management, and the Law. We discuss issues that affect our well-being and collaborate on fire and weed management. Collectively we have a strong capability to analyse issues affecting us and the wider community, to appraise costs and benefits based on factual information and scientific inquiry, and to draw rational conclusions. I apply this and capabilities gained in a career as a teacher, researcher in biological sciences, and public servant and manager of a large and remote conservation and cultural estate, in the following.

My reasons for objection are as follows:

1. No confidence in the applicant

The applicant, Arafura Oil Pty Ltd, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Roper Resources Pty Ltd, which is a subsidiary of MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd, which is a member of the Meijin Energy Group Co Ltd in China¹². The Australian parent company, MacMines, has a dysfunctional website (<https://www.macmines.com>) and has apparently

¹ <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/?a=424241> accessed 14/09/2022

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/profile/company/MEIJIZ:CH> accessed 14/09/2022

withdrawn from a coal mining prospect in the Galilee Basin in Queensland³. The corporate structure gives us no confidence that the applicant will meet any liabilities arising from its exploration nor give a fair return to the Australian Treasury from its investment. Australia is incapable of prosecuting any case for claimants in China.

2. No confidence in assertion of landholder rights

Landholders encompassed by and neighbouring EP218 experience frequent and untrammelled trespass, arson, discharge of firearms and dogs off leash in violation of various NT Government Acts (e.g. Bushfires and Firearms Acts) and Coomalie Community Council by-laws. There is little or no redress and we have no confidence that our rights under law will be asserted if conflict arises with the applicant or its agents. The NT Government asserts that it protects affected landholders by legislation and industry codes of conduct. We experience contrary evidence that these prescriptions are not enforced and perceive a bias to the explorers who assert exaggerated and subsequently false claims about community, employment and economic benefits of their investments and activities.

3. Exploration rationale is false

We are not privy to the applicant's proposal to the Department in support of EP218. We note the general terms under the Petroleum Act 1984, as 'explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose in the area covered by the permit including (but not limited to) use of machinery and equipment for carrying out works, removal of material for testing, use of water resources for domestic use and to seek renewals'. Our understanding is that the applicant intends to use hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as the exploration tool in an area of the Daly-Reynolds Floodplain-Estuary System. This will require penetration of the aquifers of the Daly River catchment, namely: Fractured Precambrian rocks (minor), Karstic carbonate rocks - Tindall Limestone, Jinduckin Formation and Oolloo Dolostone (major), and Cretaceous sediments (minor)⁴. Of relevance is the integrity of the Oolloo Dolostone and associated Cretaceous sediments, inter-aquifer connection (or lack thereof) and leakage, expansion of arsenic contamination found in some bores and changes in groundwater chemistry if these aquifers are breached by fracking. It is unclear whether sufficient baseline data has been gathered in the locality of EP218 in order to meet the recommendations of 'The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory 2018' as accepted by the NT Government. We further note that the integrity of water resources in the Daly River catchment is of considerable public

³ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-23/macmines-abandons-mining-lease-applications/11138310> accessed 14/09/2022

⁴ CSIRO (2009) Water in the Daly region, pp 273-361 in CSIRO (2009) Water in the Timor Sea Drainage Division. A report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Northern Australia Sustainable Yields Project. CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, Australia. xl + 508pp

interest⁵. Counter to these concerns are arguments that exploration is of minor risk relative to production. However, we contend that a single failure can have catastrophic consequences. There is no multiplier effect. Rather there is abundant evidence of widespread environmental contamination from single oil well and oil tanker failures, gas well and gas pipeline failures. Full remediation has proved impossible after such events. Furthermore, it is economically irrational to conclude that exploration is not conducted without the intention of production. Thus, exploration is a prelude to production and production is unjustified as we further argue below. Rather we contend exploration should be rejected and the issuance of permits closed in line with community expectations that global climate change will be ameliorated with immediate effect by cessation of the extraction and combustion of gas (and other 'fossil fuels')⁶.

4. Global impacts on a climate supporting life are unjustified

Support for increased carbon pollution of the atmosphere through issuances of permits such as EP218 is unjustified. Any project resulting in the release of carbon pollution either fugitive or intentional (e.g. combustion of gas such as flaring of wells) contributes to the adverse impacts of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere that ultimately will destroy the biosphere (life on earth). A full accounting of the social cost of generating carbon pollution from, in this case exploration through hydraulic fracturing, should be weighed against no or alternative actions before issuance of any permit. The United Nations estimates this as AUD275 per tonne of CO₂ released with most of this (49%) accruing to human health costs⁷. In the case of exploration, carbon emissions will arise from the transport and operation of plant and equipment, transport of personnel, land clearing for access and drilling platforms, fugitive and intentional emissions. These costs should be weighed against the alternatives of status quo (e.g. retention of carbon stores in vegetation and carbon cycles in functional ecosystems) and/or the activities of the Tipperary Group on their holding. A counter argument is that the public interest is best served by exploration and consequent production of gas. In refutation of this argument we support the following statement referencing the activities of the exploration permit as 'the project': "The effects of climate change will cause significant damage to the environment, the economy and the mental and physical wellbeing of humans if the volume of greenhouse gas in the earth's atmosphere is not reduced. The [project] would, if approved, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore the level of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The [project] will, if

⁵ Beaumont T, Pursey A, Booth C. A fork in the river: The consequences of a major new cotton industry in the Northern Territory, Centre for Conservation Geography, 2022

⁶ <https://theconversation.com/now-we-begin-10-simple-ways-to-make-australias-climate-game-truly-next-level-190427> accessed 14/09/2022

⁷ [Australia finally has new climate laws. Now, let's properly consider the astounding social cost of carbon \(theconversation.com\)](#) accessed 14/09/2022

approved, therefore contribute to grave environmental harm and harm to human beings ... and is therefore contrary to the public interest."⁸

5. Local impacts on community are unjustified

The majority of the landholdings impacted locally by this application are residences and workplaces. We provide ecosystem services and contributions to the liveable biosphere. Thus, the productivity of landholders extends beyond the provision of goods and services and investments in the NT economy. A significant portion of the landholdings affected by the permit application contribute to ecosystem services of value to the community under informal dedicated land management and formal arrangements (e.g. Land for Wildlife, Territory NRM conservation agreements). Furthermore, landholders exhaust significant labour and capital on weed management, fire protection and maintenance of carbon reserves in extensive woodlands, and these contribute to a liveable biosphere in the face of carbon pollution and consequent climate change. These services such as potable water, clean air, carbon capture, biodiversity conservation typically remain unrecognised until lost when significant capital investments are required for their restoration (if at all possible). The experience of landholders along Dorat and Daly River Roads is that prospectors are responsible for arson (to clear passage for exploration) and damage to ecosystems through land clearing, drilling, contamination of water sources and fracturing of ground water aquifers. Furthermore, vehicles and plant equipment are often responsible for unbridled deposition and dispersal of weeds. Exploration requires heavy plant and equipment whose transport impacts the integrity and utility of local roads. Dorat Road between the intersection of Daly River Road and the Stuart Highway has a length limit of 19 m. This restriction is regularly flouted, particularly by stock carriers at nights. Regulation and restoration of all these impacts have proved challenging for governments and the resultant record in the Northern Territory is very poor. Thus, adventitious exploration of dubious benefit by a likely unaccountable company is a poor reward for conscientious landholders furthering the well-being of local, national and global communities.

6. Exacerbation of landholder anxiety leading to poor mental health

Further to item 5, landholders can experience extreme anxiety leading to poor mental health due to infractions on their rights that threaten their lives and livelihoods. The uncertainty arising from repeated exploration applications in the mining and petroleum industries without good cause (see 3) adds to this anxiety. Environmental grief is causing mental illness. Given Australia's problem in the mental health arena, any more health problems cost more and make the economy less productive. The NT Government has a duty of care to its citizenry and to demonstrate this in fair dealings with landholders and their properties.

⁸ [The Gomeri people have fought Santos' Narrabri Gas Project for a decade. They hope a novel climate change argument could help them win - ABC News](#) accessed 14/09/2022

7. Impediments to future investment

Landholders invest in the Northern Territory's economy through their own productive activities and purchases of goods and services from NT businesses. The repeated infringement of exploration permits (and licenses) on landholdings defrays further investment under an uncertain land tenure. Along with 6 above, some landholders question any viable future in the Northern Territory and are likely to emigrate to other jurisdictions.

8. The social licence of fossil fuel industries should be terminated

The fossil fuel industries, in this case gas production through hydraulic fracturing, operates under a social licence since they exploit a resource that we are repeatedly told belongs to the Australian people. The cost of exploiting this resource has proven to be detrimental to human welfare through the primary contribution to carbon pollution of the biosphere, the plundering of Australia's heritage and economy as evidenced by the east coast energy market, and the corruption of our democracy through the infiltration of vested interests into the public service and politics⁹. We are presented with propaganda about employment (grossly exaggerated), economic activity (inaccurately costed – see 4), substantial contributions to the Australian Treasury (taxes are never paid), and equally substantial royalties to State/Territory treasuries (rarely if ever realised in full). We are presented with 'green washing'¹⁰ about unproven CCS technologies, environmental offsets, and dubious carbon credits¹¹. The fossil fuel industries prosper under social upheaval, war and extreme climatic events. For instance, the current Russia-Ukraine conflict or bushfire smoke pollution impacting solar resources, extreme wind velocities shutting down wind turbines, drought or flood inhibiting hydro-electricity generation. Contrast this to the proven benefits over costs, and employment opportunities of the renewable energy industries¹², which will be particularly beneficial to northern Australia including the Northern Territory¹³.

I wish to direct the Minister to an Oxford University study published in the Journal "Joule"¹⁴ that estimated a saving of US\$12 Trillion through to 2050 by switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It is wrong and pessimistic to claim that moving quickly towards cleaner energy sources is too costly. In fact, it is a rational economic benefit. Radical action is needed to drop global greenhouse emissions by 45% by 2030 compared with 1990 level according to

⁹ <https://theconversation.com/how-to-deal-with-fossil-fuel-lobbying-and-its-growing-influence-in-australian-politics-188515> accessed 14/09/2022.

¹⁰ <https://theconversation.com/nearly-30-of-australias-emissions-come-from-industry-tougher-rules-for-big-polluters-is-a-no-brainer-190264> accessed 14/09/2022

¹¹ 'Untenable': even companies profiting from Australia's carbon market say the system must change (theconversation.com) accessed 14/09/2022.

¹² <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/what-are-green-jobs-how-do-i-train-for-clean-energy-sector/101415244> accessed 14/09/2022

¹³ [Publications | Net Zero Australia](#) accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁴ DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joule.2022.08.009>

the IPCC¹⁵. Instead of further facilitating the destructive fossil fuel industry, Department resources must be directed to the renewable energy sector. It is immoral to persist in assisting industries that will lead to a total annihilation of life on this planet under the current IPCC model's worst-case scenario (2% chance). It is vital to remember that our planet is finite. It is an island in space, with finite resources and endless growth is simply impossible and irrational.

As David Attenborough pointed out in *A Life on Our Planet* (2020)¹⁶, the Chernobyl disaster may serve as a warning. The USSR responded too late to the explosion and exposed the people living nearby to dangerous and fatal levels of radiation. That was referred to as criminal negligence by our government. Are we all meant to be the people of Pripyat, the doomed town and its inhabitants at Chernobyl? We live our lives in the shadow of a disaster of our own making. Climate impacts are already worse than predicted, heating the planet faster than initial modelling has shown. If the current doomsday predictions are already superseded by faster warming, faster melting of glaciers, faster melting of Arctic and Antarctic icecaps, it could also mean that this 2% chance is an under-estimate. Do we dare take this chance and gamble short-term gain against long term annihilation? We have the means to stop this irrationality now. The technology has been in place for more than 50 years. We can save not only ourselves by going 'green', but also assist poorer nations to defray fossil fuel use by behaving morally and ethically and export our advanced renewable energy technology. Australia has exceptional research and engineering capacity. I am disheartened by our current outlook if small developing countries like Namibia¹⁷ have better plans than our rich developed country that remains beholden and blackmailed by fossil fuel companies.

I also wish to remind the Minister that the electorate in the NT voted for a stop on fracking. Allowing fracking to happen now is breaking a contract with most voters. Is this government only about the "blah, blah, blah" Greta Thunberg so eloquently spoke about¹⁸?

I thank the Department and its officers for consideration of my objection.

Yours sincerely

Ingrid Witte BSc Hons (UNSW), PhD (UNSW)

Please direct correspondence to Ingrid Witte via:

¹⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/> accessed 15/09/2022

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Attenborough:_A_Life_on_Our_Planet accessed 15/09/2022

¹⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/12/africas-first-hydrogen-power-plant-to-produce-electricity-by-2024> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBL7td5sozk> accessed 14/09/2022

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Postal: [REDACTED] NT 0846

CC: The Honorable Dheran Young, Member for Daly

Srijitra Muir

From: roosearch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 September 2022 4:37 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Dheran Young
Subject: Objection to granting of Petroleum Licence EP218
Attachments: Objection to Granting of Exploration Permit 218 dbc.pdf

Dear Minister:

Please find attached my objection to the granting of a Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. The reasons for my objection are found in this document. A written copy has been sent by mail to your office.

Sincerely
David Croft

David B Croft
[REDACTED]
Northern Territory AUSTRALIA
Ph: [REDACTED]

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

OBJECTION TO GRANTING OF EXPLORATION
PERMIT 218 (SECTION 18 OF THE
PETROLEUM ACT NT) LODGED BY ARAFURA
OIL PTY LTD

OBJECTION LODGED BY THE LANDHOLDER:

Dr David Croft, [REDACTED] Robin Falls NT 0822

To: The Honourable Nicole Madison MLA
Minister for Mining and Industry
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade,
GPO Box 4550
Darwin NT 0801

14 September 2022

Dear Minister:

I, David B Croft, object to the granting of an Exploration Permit (EP218) to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. Your petitioner is a member of a community that own and occupy freehold portions along Daly River and Dorat roads, fanning out from the junction of these two roads. Our landholdings share continuity with the aquifers, geology, climate, landscapes and road network serving the Tipperary Group's properties over which EP218 is proposed. Furthermore, we are acutely aware of a shared atmosphere through local smoke pollution largely arising from unplanned fires as a result of arson.

The members of our community exercise skills in natural resource management and advocacy for the appreciation and conservation of the Territory's terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity; health, research and education, tourism, cultural resource management, business management, and the Law. We discuss issues that affect our well-being and collaborate on fire and weed management. Collectively we have a strong capability to analyse issues affecting us and the wider community, to appraise costs and benefits based on factual information and scientific inquiry, and to draw rational conclusions. I apply this capacity, as well as knowledge and research capability gained in a career as a University faculty member in the Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences, in the following.

My reasons for objection are as follows:

1. No confidence in the applicant

The applicant, Arafura Oil Pty Ltd, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Roper Resources Pty Ltd, which is a subsidiary of MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd, which is a member of the Meijin Energy Group Co Ltd in China¹². The Australian parent company, MacMines, has a dysfunctional website (<https://www.macmines.com>) and has apparently

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withdrawn from a coal mining prospect in the Galilee Basin in Queensland³. The corporate structure gives us no confidence that the applicant will meet any liabilities arising from its exploration nor give a fair return to the Australian Treasury from its investment. Australia is incapable of prosecuting any case for claimants in China.

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3. Exploration rationale is false

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⁴ CSIRO (2009) Water in the Daly region, pp 273-361 in CSIRO (2009) Water in the Timor Sea Drainage Division. A report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Northern Australia Sustainable Yields Project. CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, Australia. xl + 508pp

interest⁵. Counter to these concerns are arguments that exploration is of minor risk relative to production. However, we contend that a single failure can have catastrophic consequences. There is no multiplier effect. Rather there is abundant evidence of widespread environmental contamination from single oil well and oil tanker failures, gas well and gas pipeline failures. Full remediation has proved impossible after such events. Furthermore, it is economically irrational to conclude that exploration is not conducted without the intention of production. Thus, exploration is a prelude to production and production is unjustified as we further argue below. Rather we contend exploration should be rejected and the issuance of permits closed in line with community expectations that global climate change will be ameliorated with immediate effect by cessation of the extraction and combustion of gas (and other 'fossil fuels')⁶.

4. Global impacts on a climate supporting life are unjustified

Support for increased carbon pollution of the atmosphere through issuances of permits such as EP218 is unjustified. Any project resulting in the release of carbon pollution either fugitive or intentional (e.g. combustion of gas such as flaring of wells) contributes to the adverse impacts of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere that ultimately will destroy the biosphere (life on earth). A full accounting of the social cost of generating carbon pollution from, in this case exploration through hydraulic fracturing, should be weighed against no or alternative actions before issuance of any permit. The United Nations estimates this as AUD275 per tonne of CO₂ released with most of this (49%) accruing to human health costs⁷. In the case of exploration, carbon emissions will arise from the transport and operation of plant and equipment, transport of personnel, land clearing for access and drilling platforms, fugitive and intentional emissions. These costs should be weighed against the alternatives of status quo (e.g. retention of carbon stores in vegetation and carbon cycles in functional ecosystems) and/or the activities of the Tipperary Group on their holding. A counter argument is that the public interest is best served by exploration and consequent production of gas. In refutation of this argument we support the following statement referencing the activities of the exploration permit as 'the project': "The effects of climate change will cause significant damage to the environment, the economy and the mental and physical wellbeing of humans if the volume of greenhouse gas in the earth's atmosphere is not reduced. The [project] would, if approved, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore the level of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The [project] will, if

⁵ Beaumont T, Pursey A, Booth C. A fork in the river: The consequences of a major new cotton industry in the Northern Territory, Centre for Conservation Geography, 2022

⁶ <https://theconversation.com/now-we-begin-10-simple-ways-to-make-australias-climate-game-truly-next-level-190427> accessed 14/09/2022

⁷ [Australia finally has new climate laws. Now, let's properly consider the astounding social cost of carbon \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/australia-finally-has-new-climate-laws-now-lets-properly-consider-the-astounding-social-cost-of-carbon-190427) accessed 14/09/2022

approved, therefore contribute to grave environmental harm and harm to human beings ... and is therefore contrary to the public interest."⁸

5. Local impacts on community are unjustified

The majority of the landholdings impacted locally by this application are residences and workplaces. We provide ecosystem services and contributions to the liveable biosphere. Thus, the productivity of landholders extends beyond the provision of goods and services and investments in the NT economy. A significant portion of the landholdings affected by the permit application contribute to ecosystem services of value to the community under informal dedicated land management and formal arrangements (e.g. Land for Wildlife, Territory NRM conservation agreements). Furthermore, landholders exhaust significant labour and capital on weed management, fire protection and maintenance of carbon reserves in extensive woodlands, and these contribute to a liveable biosphere in the face of carbon pollution and consequent climate change. These services such as potable water, clean air, carbon capture, biodiversity conservation typically remain unrecognised until lost when significant capital investments are required for their restoration (if at all possible). The experience of landholders along Dorat and Daly River Roads is that prospectors are responsible for arson (to clear passage for exploration) and damage to ecosystems through land clearing, drilling, contamination of water sources and fracturing of ground water aquifers. Furthermore, vehicles and plant equipment are often responsible for unbridled deposition and dispersal of weeds. Exploration requires heavy plant and equipment whose transport impacts the integrity and utility of local roads. Dorat Road between the intersection of Daly River Road and the Stuart Highway has a length limit of 19 m. This restriction is regularly flouted, particularly by stock carriers at nights. Regulation and restoration of all these impacts have proved challenging for governments and the resultant record in the Northern Territory is very poor. Thus, adventitious exploration of dubious benefit by a likely unaccountable company is a poor reward for conscientious landholders furthering the well-being of local, national and global communities.

6. Exacerbation of landholder anxiety leading to poor mental health

Further to item 5, landholders can experience extreme anxiety leading to poor mental health due to infractions on their rights that threaten their lives and livelihoods. The uncertainty arising from repeated exploration applications in the mining and petroleum industries without good cause (see 3) adds to this anxiety. The NT Government has a duty of care to its citizenry and to demonstrate this in fair dealings with landholders and their properties.

⁸ [The Gomeri people have fought Santos' Narrabri Gas Project for a decade. They hope a novel climate change argument could help them win - ABC News](#) accessed 14/09/2022

7. Impediments to future investment

Landholders invest in the Northern Territory's economy through their own productive activities and purchases of goods and services from NT businesses. The repeated infringement of exploration permits (and licenses) on landholdings defrays further investment under an uncertain land tenure. Along with 6 above, some landholders question any viable future in the Northern Territory and are likely to emigrate to other jurisdictions.

8. The social licence of fossil fuel industries should be terminated

The fossil fuel industries, in this case gas production through hydraulic fracturing, operates under a social licence since they exploit a resource that we are repeatedly told belongs to the Australian people. The cost of exploiting this resource has proven to be detrimental to human welfare through the primary contribution to carbon pollution of the biosphere, the plundering of Australia's heritage and economy as evidenced by the east coast energy market, and the corruption of our democracy through the infiltration of vested interests into the public service and politics⁹. We are presented with propaganda about employment (grossly exaggerated), economic activity (inaccurately costed – see 4), substantial contributions to the Australian Treasury (taxes are never paid), and equally substantial royalties to State/Territory treasuries (rarely if ever realised in full). We are presented with 'green washing'¹⁰ about unproven CCS technologies, environmental offsets, and dubious carbon credits¹¹. The fossil fuel industries prosper under social upheaval, war and extreme climatic events. For instance, the current Russia-Ukraine conflict or bushfire smoke pollution impacting solar resources, extreme wind velocities shutting down wind turbines, drought or flood inhibiting hydro-electricity generation. Contrast this to the proven benefits over costs, and employment opportunities of the renewable energy industries¹², which will be particularly beneficial to northern Australia including the Northern Territory¹³.

I wish to remind the Minister that after Cyclone Tracy the Northern Territory was a global innovator in community renewable energy in the construction of the 'Solar Village'. Oh, what Darwin could have been if this nascent technology has been supported through research and investment – a world leading model of a sustainable and liveable society? At least this is a reminder that the technology is not new or radical but 50 years or more old. There is a clear roadmap to a sustainable and healthier future which includes no more

⁹ <https://theconversation.com/how-to-deal-with-fossil-fuel-lobbying-and-its-growing-influence-in-australian-politics-188515> accessed 14/09/2022.

¹⁰ <https://theconversation.com/nearly-30-of-australias-emissions-come-from-industry-tougher-rules-for-big-polluters-is-a-no-brainer-190264> accessed 14/09/2022

¹¹ ['Untenable': even companies profiting from Australia's carbon market say the system must change \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/untenable-even-companies-profiting-from-australias-carbon-market-say-the-system-must-change) accessed 14/09/2022.

¹² <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/what-are-green-jobs-how-do-i-train-for-clean-energy-sector/101415244> accessed 14/09/2022

¹³ [Publications | Net Zero Australia](#) accessed 14/09/2022

handouts, such as undue investment of departmental resources, to the fossil fuel industry¹⁴. It is a perverse contradiction to claim recovery from a public health crisis (the COV 19 pandemic) will be led by a gas industry that degrades public health at a similar global scale¹⁵. We see little entrepreneurial spirit in the current government but rather false promises of a renewable energy future while captive to vested interests of polluting energy sources. This is a failure of the contract with the electorate and yet another failure of Australian governments to support our exceptional research and engineering skills, and our environmental advantages of renewable energy sources¹⁶. Contrast the NT with a small developing country, Namibia, at a similar southern latitude. By 2024 they will be delivering green hydrogen to the EU¹⁷. As to us, and to quote Greta Thunberg¹⁸, we will just hear 'Blah, Blah - Blah, Blah'. The last gasp of the fossil fuel industry may well be our last gasp as we die in an uninhabitable climate¹⁹.

I thank the Department and its officers for consideration of my objection.

Yours sincerely

David B Croft BSc Hons (Flinders), PhD (Cambridge)

Please direct correspondence to David Croft via:

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Postal: [REDACTED] NT 0846

CC: The Honorable Dheran Young, Member for Daly

¹⁴ <https://theconversation.com/now-we-begin-10-simple-ways-to-make-australias-climate-game-truly-next-level-190427> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁵ <https://theconversation.com/australia-finally-has-new-climate-laws-now-lets-properly-consider-the-astounding-social-cost-of-carbon-190050> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁶ <https://theconversation.com/green-hydrogen-is-coming-and-these-australian-regions-are-well-placed-to-build-our-new-export-industry-174466> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/12/africas-first-hydrogen-power-plant-to-produce-electricity-by-2024> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3L7td5sozk> accessed 14/09/2022

¹⁹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/> accessed 14/09/2022

Srijitra Muir

From: Rob Woods [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 10:45 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; minster.moss@nt.gov.au; Dheran Young
Subject: FRACKING in the Daly region
Attachments: Ethical adventures - letter to Nicole Manison.docx

Please read and respond to the attached letter.

 	<p>Manager ethical adventures www.ethicaladventures.com.au ph. [REDACTED] ABN 45759315390</p>  
--	--



Ethical adventures

NT 0810

Ph. [REDACTED]

www.ethicaladventures.com.au
office@ethicaladventures.com.au

ABN 45 759 315 390

20 September 2022

To Hon. Nicole Manison, Minister for Mining and Industry

My name is Robert Woods and I live in Malak , NT. I need to object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because of the broad range of environmental issues which will destroy our tourism business and industry.

We currently operate a tourism business which generates over \$500,000 in gross sales annually of which most is due to experiences offered in and around Litchfield National Park and the Douglas Daly Region. This is at risk.

Given the extensive list of issues identified in the scientific report into FRACKING and the limited progress on many of the essential recommendations from that report it is inconceivable that this Government could be considering allowing FRACKING activities in these high value and prosperous areas.

Given that the impact of this industry is already well known, established and ridiculed universally I will not spend time here outlining these things which YOU the government should already be aware off and cognoscente of the impact of this industry on the various aspects of Top End ecology , society and industry. I will however like to reiterate the absolute certainty that to allow this exploration to proceed will irreversibly impact all that currently exists in that space. As a tourism operator who operates in the region we will cease to exist due to this disruption. We are not alone.

I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss this further.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Woods
Owner, ethical adventures
Darwin

Srijitra Muir

From: Rob Woods [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 6:32 AM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; minster.moss@nt.gov.au; Dheran Young
Subject: Lithium Mine and Fracking exploration permits

	<p>Manager ethical adventures www.ethicaladventures.com.au ph. [REDACTED] ABN 45759315390</p>	<p>From: Robert Maslin</p>
		

[REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 5:34 AM
To: minister.manison@nt.gov.au; chief.minister@nt.gov.au; minister.moss@nt.gov.au; dheran.young@nt.gov.au
Subject: Litchfield National Park

September 20, 2022

Minister Nicole Manison
Chief Minister Natasha Fyles
Environmental Minister Lauren Moss
Member Dheran Young

Re: Litchfield National Park

Dear Esteemed Ministers,

I am writing to you about my concerns over the mining and drilling of natural resources near your national treasure, Litchfield National Park. My wife and I were very fortunate to visit your park and the memories were some of the finest from our world cruise. I understand the need for lithium, as the green agenda is very dependent upon it. The problem is we need to protect national treasures more. As I remember, there was once uranium mining years ago and unintended aftermath of radiation issues followed. Whatever man touches, we find a way of destroying. Please do not issue these licenses and help protect one of the nicest parks in the entire world.

Robert & Sandra Maslin
[REDACTED]
Henderson, Nevada 89044
USA

Srijittra Muir

From: leonie.hackett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 12:21 PM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Litchfield National Park

Good morning Minister,

I was saddened to hear today about the proposal for Litchfield N.P. and the devastation this will cause.

I was fortunate enough to finally travel to Litchfield last year after yearning to do so for many years. I was totally astounded with its vastness and natural beauty and felt so grateful and blessed that we have this magnificent eco system in our country and that I experienced it in my lifetime.

I have seen other countries lose their forests and natural habitats and wildlife through senseless greed and would be disappointed if this happened in Australia.

I am a strong supporter and member of Animals Australia, SOWFI and a local animal rescue centre and I'm very passionate about sustainability and work towards keeping our environment healthy for my grandchildren and future generations so they can enjoy our beautiful country.

I would be extremely disappointed if the mining licence is approved, it would be devastating, everything is not about wealth.

It is a privilege to live in this country we are so lucky to have so many beautiful places, if there is anything we can take from the past it's seeing what happens to the environment when we don't look after it.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter.

Kind regards
Leonie George

Sent from my Galaxy

Srijitra Muir

From: David Chauncy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 12:16 PM
To: Minister Marison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

Dear Sirs/Madam

Can we please not approve the applications for the Lithium Mine and the Fracking licenses.

When do we say enough is enough. I'm not an expert on anything, I could gather all the research to substantiate how bad these mines are for the environment. Yet deep down you would know .

A couple of links:

[https://www.nrdc.org/stories/lithium-mining-leaving-chiles-indigenous-communities-high-and-dry-literally#:~:text=Lithium%20Mining%20Is%20Leaving%20Chile's%20Indigenous%20Communities%20High%20and%20Dry%20\(Literally\),-Espa%C3%B1ol&text=As%20the%20metal%20fuels%20the,and%20ancient%20ways%20of%20life.](https://www.nrdc.org/stories/lithium-mining-leaving-chiles-indigenous-communities-high-and-dry-literally#:~:text=Lithium%20Mining%20Is%20Leaving%20Chile's%20Indigenous%20Communities%20High%20and%20Dry%20(Literally),-Espa%C3%B1ol&text=As%20the%20metal%20fuels%20the,and%20ancient%20ways%20of%20life.)

This youtube documentary is not specifically about Lithium or Fracking but is a poignant reminder that we are running out of time.

<https://youtu.be/LaPge01NQTQ>

The decisions we make today become part of our conscience and determine how we sleep at night, which I understand becomes more elusive as we get older.

How will you sleep, and how will your children and their children sleep, if we keep supporting the short term financial windfall compared to making the right decisions.

If you were to be a witness at your own funeral and hear the eulogy, what would you like people to say about you ?

Kind Regards

David Chauncy

[View this email in your browser](#)



This is YOUR moment

A new LITHIUM MINE exploration license has been applied for and looking like being approved by the NT Government which will see most of the western edge of Litchfield Park (from Green Ant to Cascades , including Wangi Falls area) be turned into a mine site.

An UNCONVENTIONAL GAS (FRACKING) exploration license has also been applied for which joins Litchfield Park in the SOUTH.

Individually either of these endeavors will destroy the delicate and unique balance which exists in that region. The same balance that gives us hot springs, waterfalls, crystal clear clean water, wildlife and clean air.

Combined will see the end of ALL of these things. The very things that each of you have had the fortune to enjoy in the past.

We owe it to the future to make sure our kids, grandkids, friends and family can also share in these wonderful things.

If you do one selfless thing this year please make this be it.... please write a letter which records your thoughts on these proposals to:

Minister: Nicole Manison (minister.manison@nt.gov.au)

Chief Minister: Natasha Fyles (chief.minister@nt.gov.au)

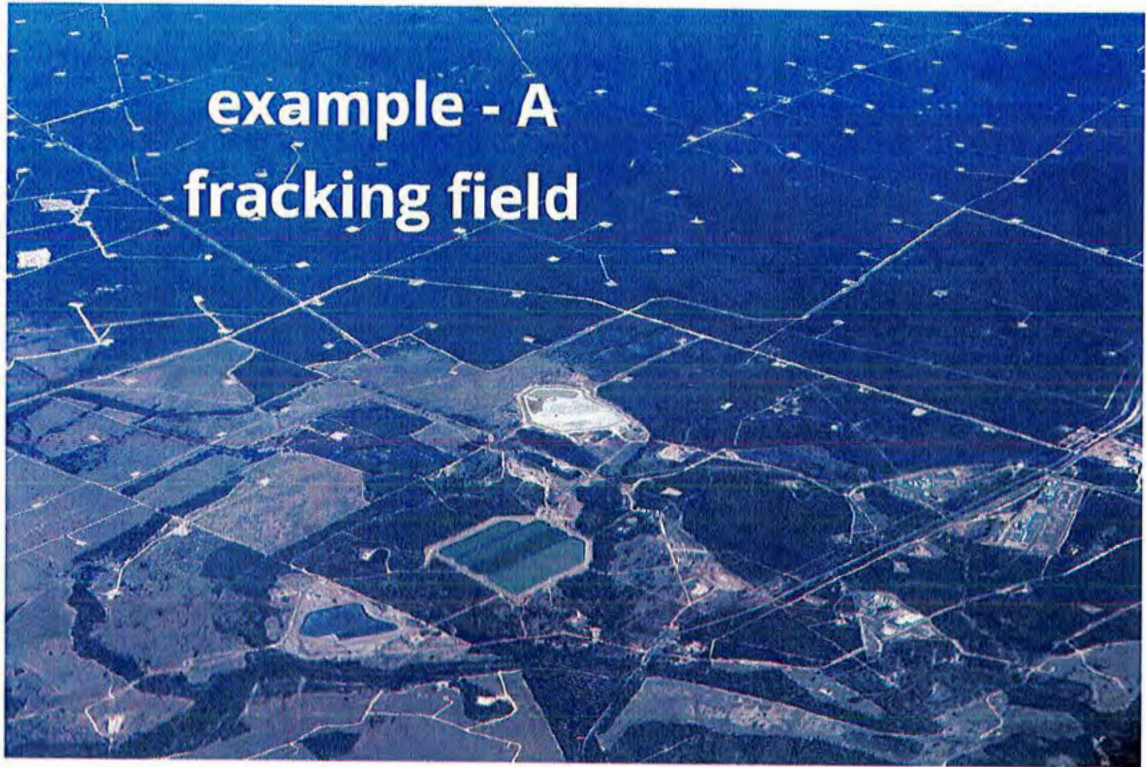
Minister for Environment: Lauren Moss (minister.moss@nt.gov.au)

Member for Daly: Dheran Young (Dheran,young@nt.gov.au)

We have created a DROPBOX folder which has more background on these activities.

NOTE: Submissions close in a few days so there is no time to waste.





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Srijittra Muir

From: Cara and Etienne Littlefair [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 7:16 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Minister Fyles; Dheran Young; Minister Moss
Subject: Objection to Granting of Exploration Permit EP218
Attachments: Fracking Objection Exploration Permit (EP218) to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd Sept 2022.docx

Hello Ministers,

Please find attached landowner objection to the Exploration Permit EP218.

We are more than happy to discuss any of our points or provide elaboration if needed.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to keep the Territory for Territorians.

All the best,

Cara and Etienne Littlefair

OBJECTION TO GRANTING OF EXPLORATION PERMIT EP218 LODGED BY ARAFURA OIL PTY LTD.

OBJECTION LODGED BY THE LANDHOLDERS:

Etienne and Cara Littlefair

[REDACTED]

Postal address:

[REDACTED] Adelaide River, NT, 0846

To: The Honourable Nicole Madison MLA
Minister for Mining and Industry
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade,
GPO Box 4550
Darwin NT 0801

20/09/2022

CC: The Honorable Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister
The Honorable Dheran Young, Member for Daly
The Honorable Lauren Moss, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Security

To Whom It May Concern:

We, Cara and Etienne Littlefair, object to the granting of an Exploration Permit (EP218) to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. Your petitioners are a member of a community that own and occupy freehold portions along Daly River and Dorat Roads, fanning out from the junction of these two roads. Our landholdings share continuity with the aquifers, geology, climate, landscapes, and road network serving the Tipperary Group properties over which EP218 is proposed. We express our commitment to preventing any exploration or activity by use of all means available to us within the law.

The members of our community exercise skills in natural resource management and advocacy for the appreciation and conservation of the Territory's terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity. We discuss issues that affect our well-being and collaborate on fire and weed management. Collectively we have a strong capability to analyse issues affecting us and the wider community, to appraise costs and benefits based on factual information and scientific inquiry, and to draw rational conclusions. We are well educated in ecological systems and their functioning; Etienne obtained his Masters of Science in Natural Resource Management at James Cook University and Cara holds a Masters of Science in Ecology. We have studied the impacts of fracking activities on other landscapes and have observed the immediate and long-term detrimental impacts these activities have on the hydrological, ecological, and intrinsic cultural value of landscapes.

The process of fracking requires massive amounts of water, which would come from a water limited system, the 'fill and spill', which do not have large storage capacities. Darwin

Rural Groundwater Watch reports a current drier climate cycle and five of the past eight wet seasons have been poor, and reducing the amount of water accessible to the people that rely on these sources. Darwin Rural Groundwater Watch is advocating for Territorians to be water wise so it is bizarre to Territorians that another branch of the Labour Government would entertain an application to put such a great stress on our already fragile hydrological systems and ground water sources.

We have invested heavily in living rural in the Territory and do not believe that our efforts should be wasted with the unwanted introduction of fracking activities in our region. Our bores will likely be rendered useless if fracking occurs due to the enormous water demand for such a project. Who will be responsible for the cost of residents' continued access to clean, potable water source when, not if, the water table is lowered and contaminated?

To negatively impact a productive local food source (Tipperary Station) in a time of food shortages and climate uncertainty to produce natural gas in a country that has committed to solar energy appears to the constituents to be a short-sighted folly by government. Constituents across the NT have made it abundantly clear that they are opposed to fracking and it is the responsibility of the Labour Government to act on this mandate. Let the recent case of Origin Energy pulling out of the Beetaloo gas project demonstrate the resolve of Territorians to keep this invasive and destructive practise out of our precious landscape.

If this permit is granted local residents can expect to see a loss of property value through lack of investor confidence. Will land remain available to landholders to occupy and manage as they see fit? The prospect of future privacy will be in question. There will be a loss of aesthetic value within the landscape, a loss of environmental and recreational value, and general discouragement and discontent of residents and prospective buyers who move to this area of the Territory for its perceived lifestyle. Personally, we will likely have economic impacts to our business; we own and operate a small photographic business (Wild Territory Images, ABN: 64774534916) with a focus on the natural environment and wildlife of the Northern Territory. If this permit is granted there will be direct disturbance to wildlife

by increased human and vehicle activity reducing our ability to encounter and photograph animals and a pronounced increased fire threat – our experience in area has shown that with exploration activities comes an increase in illegal fire activity. We are acutely aware of a shared atmosphere that will be negatively impacted through smoke pollution and increased human activity.

We thank the Department for consideration of our objection, and trust that our concerns will be given due consideration.

Srijittra Muir

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 5:13 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Dheran Young; Minister Moss
Subject: Don't Do It

Don't let this happen.

Pristine NT bush destroyed by another mining site.....Don't let this happen please.

Geoff Mark
Marksie's Stockman's Camp Tucker
[REDACTED] Katherine NT 0851 Australia
Ph: [REDACTED]
www.marksiescamptucker.com.au
#1 Restaurant in Katherine- Tripadvisor rating
#1 Restaurant/370 in the Top End – Tripadvisor rating
Award winning Tourism Business



Srijittra Muir

From: Margaret Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 6:09 AM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Fracking in Lichfield

Dear minister,

Oh dear, you can't be serious about giving a license to frack in or near this fragile beautiful Lichfield national park.

Please consider the greater good, preserving one of NT world famous eco wonders.

Thank you. Marg Walker

Sent from my iPad

Srijitra Muir

From: Graham Weier [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 11:14 AM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Saving Litchfield

Dear Minister,

I would like to express my strong disapproval for any License and mining in Litchfield.

Graham Weier

Srijittra Muir

From: Rose Parr [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 10:48 AM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Proposed Mining near Litchfield National Park

Dear Minister,

Please condemn, or do not support, proposals to mine or frack areas anywhere near Litchfield National Park. Australia needs to avoid another environmental disaster.

Damage to the environment will affect wildlife, residents, NT tourism, and the reputation of NT politicians.

Yours sincerely
Rosemary Parr.

Srijittra Muir

From: Philip Pritchard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 11:50 AM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; dheranyoung@nt.gov.au
Subject: Litchfield National Park

Dear Ministers and Member for Daly,

My husband and I were extremely fortunate to visit the Litchfield National Park last year. The natural beauty of the whole area, in particular the Water was breathtaking. I remember thinking at the time, how fortunate we are to live in Australia where we can enjoy such a vast untouched, amazing national park and started making plans to bring our grandchildren to this area so they can experience it as well.

Incredibly, it seems that plans are almost underway to give exploration licenses for a Lithium Mine and for Gas Fracking.

Please, please, do not let this happen. Please think about the future of the national park and the land nearby and put this money into protecting this pristine national park, rather than investing in a dangerous operation like fracking. Please consider renewable energies instead.

There are so many things in the world that are changing and mostly for the detriment of our future. I am so deeply concerned what the world will become for my grandchildren to live in. Everyone needs to stop and put things into prospective before acting. Surely it would be a better world to have natural parks and all the goodness they bring, than mining and fracking which will destroy the parks forever.

We have alternatives, please make renewal energies the way of our future.

Yours Sincerely,
Wendy & Philip Pritchard
Croydon North Victoria.

Srijittra Muir

From: Jenny Holland [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 12:38 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: EP218 - Objection under Section 19 of the Petroleum Act

The Honourable Nicole Madison MLA
Minister for Mining and Industry
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
GPO Box 4550
DARWIN NT 0801

20 September 2022

Dear Minister

We wish to register our objection the granting of Exploration Permit (EP218).

We own and occupy [REDACTED] which adjoins Tipperary Station (separated only by Daly River Road) over which EP218 is proposed. Our landholding shares continuity with the aquifers, geology, climate, landscapes and road network serving the Tipperary Group's properties.

We have much appreciation for the natural environment and the Territory's amazing biodiversity. We are strongly in favour of natural methods of resource management for the protection of the health of the land and environment and the subsequent benefits to our personal health and the health of our broader community. We also work in the tourism industry and have a keen interest in supporting and protecting the local environment for the future of the Territory's tourism industry.

We are greatly concerned about detrimental effects EP218 and any subsequent mining activities will have on the following:

- Conservation and contamination of local water supplies;
- Increased heavy vehicle traffic, including vehicles carrying dangerous chemicals, on the local roads, particularly Dorat Road which is already somewhat dangerous for users being narrow and windy. Along with local residents and fisherman heading to the Daly River area, this road is also used by tourists being an access road to the Douglas Daly Tourist Region;
- Impacts on Litchfield National Park, Robin Falls and other local waterways and springs;
- Noise and light from exploration, and subsequent mining activities, and
- How the Applicant would manage and dispose of toxic waste from its exploration and mining activities.

Our understanding is that the Applicant intends to use hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as the exploration tool in an area of the Daly-Reynolds Floodplain-Estuary System. Our more educated neighbour, Dr David Croft (who you will also hear from) says:

"This will require penetration of the aquifers of the Daly River catchment, namely: Fractured Precambrian rocks (minor), Karstic carbonate rocks – Tindall Limestone, Jinduckin Formation and Ooloo Dolostone (major), and Cretaceous sediments (minor). Of relevance is the integrity of the Ooloo Dolostone and associated Cretaceous sediments, inter-aquifer connection (or lack thereof) and leakage, expansion of arsenic contamination found in some bores and changes in groundwater chemistry if these aquifers are breached by fracking. It is unclear whether sufficient baseline data has been gathered in the locality of EP218 in order to meet the recommendations of 'The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory 2018' as accepted by the NT Government. We further note that the integrity of water resources in the Daly River catchment is of considerable public interest. Counter to these concerns are arguments that exploration is of minor risk relative to production. However, we contend that a single failure can have catastrophic consequences. There is no multiplier effect. Rather there is abundant evidence of widespread environmental contamination from single oil well and oil tanker failures, gas well and gas

pipeline failures. Full remediation has proved impossible after such events. Furthermore, it is economically irrational to conclude that exploration is not conducted without the intention of production."

NT Portion 4724, also known as Crown Lease in Perpetuity 01711, lies to our west and also adjoins Tipperary Station (separated only by Daly River Road) and is the parent parcel from which our land and many neighbouring landholdings of our rural community have been excised. The Lease Conditions of NT Portion 4724 explain the purpose for the granting of this Lease ie

"1. Subject to the Crown Lands Act the Lessee will not use the leased land for a purpose other than the purpose for which it is leased, viz: land use evaluation and development for tourism, recreation, grazing, agriculture, horticulture and ancillary, provided that all such activities carried out in the proposed Warrai Dam Catchment and Water Storage Area are carried out in accordance with the special land use conditions in respect of that area."

And further, the conditions which relate specifically to the proposed Warrai Dam catchment and water storage area require the lessee to:

"manage the land to ensure that any use of the land does not cause degradation, long term pollution or erosion of the land, leave residues or otherwise impact upon the proposed use of the land as a water catchment."

Two points from this. This land has been and is to be developed for the purpose of *"tourism, recreation, grazing, agriculture, and horticulture"*. We purchased our land for a specific lifestyle, to become our home and also with a view to exploring tourism ventures to secure our future as part of our retirement plan. For reasons already raised above we fear that mining activities in the area would impact negatively on our ability for success with these plans.

Secondly, the fact that this area forms part of the proposed Warrai Dam Catchment and Water Storage Area is of upmost concern when proposing exploration and mining activities likely to impact the quality of surrounding groundwater and surface water supplies from which we and the greater community will partake.

We are already contending with other environmental failures such as:

- the introduction of gamba grass for cattle feed, now considered a noxious weed and fire hazard that has spread and is proving very difficult to control;
- invasion by cane toads, also introduced, killing our native wildlife; and
- the littering of our roadsides throughout the region (about this time last year so this year's harvest is likely imminent) by trucks moving loads of cotton from Tipperary Station to Qld, again a hazard to our environment from the spread of seed, potentially also becoming invasive and difficult to control, as well as being an eye sore to locals and tourists.

Furthermore, if we are being told by climate experts that global climate change needs to urgently be addressed and can be improved by, amongst other things, cessation of the extraction and combustion of gas and other 'fossil fuels' then why would the NT Government even consider granting further exploration permits and mining licences?

We thank you for consideration of our objection.

Brian and Jenny Holland

COOLALINGA NT 0839

Srijittra Muir

From: Karen M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 2:19 PM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Litchfield park

I've become aware of plans to mine or explore in this amazing park that I had the pleasure of visiting before Covid. I actually can't believe this idea could even be contemplated.

You must KNOW in your heart that this is wrong. It will bring destruction to this land and shame to our beautiful country.

Please do not allow this to happen

Yours sincerely
Karen Mullens

Srijitra Muir

From: Karen M [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 2:27 PM
To: chief.minister@nt.govt.au; chief.minister@nt.govt; Minister Manison;
minister.moss@nt.govt.au; young@nt.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Litchfield park

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen M [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 21 Sep 2022 at 2:51 pm
Subject: Fwd: Litchfield park
To: <chief.minister@nt.govt>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen M [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 21 Sep 2022 at 2:48 pm
Subject: Litchfield park
To: <minister.manison@nt.gov.au>

I've become aware of plans to mine or explore in this amazing park that I had the pleasure of visiting before Covid. I actually can't believe this idea could even be contemplated.

You must KNOW in your heart that this is wrong. It will bring destruction to this land and shame to our beautiful country.

Please do not allow this to happen

Yours sincerely
Karen Mullens

Srijitra Muir

From: Jay Ridgewell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 3:41 PM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; young@nt.gov.au
Subject: Protect Litchfield NP

To Chief Minister Natasha Fyles, Minister for Environment Lauren Moss, Minister Nicole Manison, and Member for Daly, Dheran Young,

I ask you to please not approve the proposed Lithium mine and fracking exploration leases around Litchfield national park.

I am a Queensland resident and visited the area in 2019. It is a truly beautiful and invaluable area. I would love to return again and again, and bring friends and family. Your best asset is there already, in plain sight. You do not need to explore for mining opportunities to bring tourists from across the world, and ensure safe drinking water and viable ecosystems for sustaining life.

Thanks for your time,
Jay Ridgewell
4556 Queensland

Srijittra Muir

From: Katherine Marchment [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 6:27 PM
To: Minister Manison; Shaun Drabsch
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: Objection EP 218 Arafura Oil

21 September 2022

To: The Hon. Nicole Manison Minister for Mining and Industry and Mr Shaun Drabsch CEO Department Industry Tourism and Trade

c/- Department of Industry Tourism and Trade

Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Mall, DARWIN NT 0800

From: Katherine Marchment

[REDACTED] WAGAMAN NT 0810

Ph: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister Manison and Mr Drabsch

Regarding Proposed Grant of Exploration Permit (Petroleum) EP 218 to ARAFURA OIL PTY LTD

As a Darwin resident I have an economic interest in the grant of this permit. I also have a recreational and social interest as I am a regular visitor to Litchfield Park and know personally people within EP218 boundaries. The granting of this permit will negatively impact not only those residing within the land boundaries of the permit but it will also negatively impact existing businesses and communities that rely on the 4 interconnected ground water aquifers beneath the permit area and beyond, that Arafura Oil also be reliant on to conduct exploration activities.

To date Arafura Oil Pty Ltd primary function appears to be applying for Exploration Permits. This company has never drilled a well. As a private company there is no indication as to the quality of the proposed

drilling or the financial resources to back the proposed drilling nor any indication that Arafura Oil Pty will act in accordance with the Pepper Inquiry Recommendations. Any proposed support of this company would be purely speculative and likely subject to market forces beyond the control of the Minister. Any accidents or incidents or bankruptcy or EP 218 changing hands would end up being a debt burden for the Northern Territory Government,

The Territory has a small population and rich resources so mining plays a big part in our economy. However, for our economy to become and remain resilient, our mining industries need to support and work with the diversity of small enterprises that keep the NT going when disaster hits,

The downside to mining is that all mines use large quantities of water and produce large quantities of waste. The mines that are able to reduce/recycle water and contain waste on site, on a cost benefit basis provide more value to the NT as a whole than cost. So even though there is local damage it is better overall for the mine to go ahead.

The same cannot be said for shale gas fracking. When the gas company contaminates aquifers, the waste cannot be contained. It is the process of shale gas fracking itself that contaminates the water, Drilling through layers of aquifers then depressurising the shale seams beneath with the hydraulic fracking process is always going to affect the rock layers and aquifers above. Bringing tonnes of toxic elements to the surface is always going to impact the landscape. Regardless of what people tell you or what you want to believe, mother nature will continue to do what she has always done for billions of years. You cannot talk away pressure dynamics or gravity.

So what happens with regard to oil and gas companies tampering with aquifers is that a large number of Territorians are impacted for a negative return on our assets because these companies cannot keep their promises or contain their waste. The costs of depleting and contaminating the aquifers that feed Litchfield National Park are incalculable. The aquifer does not stop at the land boundaries of EP218 The costs outweigh the benefits.

The costs of building and maintaining roads and bridges that service gas industry infrastructure. The costs of infrastructure such as communications and powerlines, The health costs,

Wells are fracked under Exploration Permits. Royalty payments are unlikely as they are only paid on wells in production. The production life of a shale gas well is around 5 years.

Minister Manison, you determined that production wells have a royalty holiday for 10 years in NT.

Native Title holders will be impacted by gasfield operations within the first year of EP 218 being granted. Is it fair to them that they wait another 15 years before they are eligible for any Royalty compensation? Will Arafura Oil even be still operating that licence in 2037?

In conclusion I object to the proposed grant of EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd

I would like to voice my objection in the words of the late great Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke,
From a speech he gave just before he was elected in 1983 about the Franklin River Dam.

The proposed grant of Exploration Permit 218 to Arafura Oil is

“An environmental obscenity and an economic absurdity”

To prioritise the sales pitches of shady speculators over the lives of real Territorians is unconscionable.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Marchment

Srijittra Muir

From: Caitlin Noonan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2022 7:30 AM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: Arafura Oil Objection

To Hon. Nicole Manison, Minister for Mining and Industry, My name is Caitlin and I live in Humpty Doo. I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because of the impacts this will have on Litchfield National Park. This is a place I frequent with my friends and family, as I know many other Territorians do. People flock from around the country and the world to see these beautiful sights and enjoy the waters. I am also greatly concerned about health impacts for residents in the area and how nearby waters will be affected. Why are we continuing to frack the NT, despite a large public voice explaining that is not what Territorians want - we want renewables! We are greatly concerned about emissions and climate change.

The public would greatly appreciate if more information about Arafura Oil's plans could be shared as there is limited information online and this is a matter of high public interest.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,
Caitlin Noonan

Srijittra Muir

From: Jen Strudwick [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2022 1:55 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; minister.ross@nt.gov.au; Dheran Young; Shaun Drabsch
Subject: Objection to proposed grant EP218 at Arafura Oil Pty Ltd

22/09/22

To Hon. Nicole Mansion, Minister for Mining and Industry,

My name is Jennifer Strudwick,

[REDACTED]
Berrimah NT 0828.

I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because of the risk of potentially destroying and decimating to the Northern Territory Tourism Industry, Daly River and Litchfield National Park both being attractions that secure multimillion-dollar investments and employment to the people of Darwin.

The following is a list of points to be considered.

The risk of water contamination impacting on the health of tourists, sickness and potential life-threatening situations.

There will be a risk of contamination via water flow underground and water surface areas such as rivers, creeks, water holes, rock holes, ponds, waterfalls and springs where people are active.

As there is no control of the wet season rains and water movements, the land is swampy at this time of the year increasing the extension of contamination flowing into pristine areas. Therefore, how will the Govt. control contamination pathways?

Tourists in helicopter rides don't want to see industrial sites and fracking wells carving up the landscape with roads and installations destroying the scenic views.

Tourists fishing, swimming, bush walking and/or camping don't want to see dead fish, birds and roadkill in the nature parks.

There is a risk of methane emissions into the air and breeze ways, tourists may light up gas emissions at BBQ areas or on top of the water ways.

There is a potential of sink holes and collapsed landscapes.

Tourists witnessing and hearing about the fracking operations held so close to Litchfield National Park may turn away as they may not want to risk entering the areas.

Tourists want to experience pure, clean, natural environments, pristine waters and fresh air.

Tourists want to engage in nature with physical activity therefore decimating the natural environment risks reducing the number of tourists visiting Litchfield National Park and the Daly River Region. Once the word gets out that the current Government agreed to Fracking the Daly River, local tourist attraction areas and poisoning the landscapes it will be very sad for many Territorians and visitors.

Thank you

Jennifer Strudwick

Srijitra Muir

From: kirsten brink <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2022 7:22 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young
Subject: Letter of objection
Attachments: Ms Kirsten Brink objection letter.pdf

Dear Minister Manison,

Please find attached my letter of objection to the granting of petroleum exploration licence EP218.

Yours sincerely,
Kirsten Brink

Ms Kirsten Brink
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Batchelor NT 0845
[REDACTED]
Batchelor NT 0845
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22 September 2022

Honourable Nicole Manison
Minister for Mining and Industry
Cc chief.minister@nt.gov.au, minister.moss@nt.gov.au, Deheran.Young@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister Manison,

Re: Proposed grant of exploration permit (petroleum)

My name is Kirsten Brink and I am writing to you as I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd.

I have been a resident of the Coomalie Community Government Council area for 36 years.

I have developed a close relationship to the flora and fauna in this area and I am concerned that the granting of this exploration licence will negatively impact the natural environment greatly.

I am concerned that the effects of hydraulic fracturing could irreversibly change and damage the Daly Ground Water Aquifers to the extent that it will be out of human control to repair any ground water contamination as a result of induced connectivity between hydraulically fractured shale formations and aquifers.

Another of my concerns is the potential for the unacceptable increase in the spread of weeds, in particular, gamba grass. In the final report 'Scientific Inquiry Into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory' the risk of the spread of weeds was assessed as high.

Also, in the above mentioned report it is stated that
"There may be a risk that chemicals used during the drilling and hydraulic fracturing process are harmful to humans and livestock. Further, there may be a risk that those chemicals come into contact with humans or livestock via ground water or atmospheric pathways. While the concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals are low, the actual amount of chemicals can be significant and may pose a threat to the water supply if not properly managed."

I find this risk to great, and this is only one example of the many potential dangers stated in the report. In summery I truly believe that there are too many risks to the Northern Territory's environment and its people to grant this exploration licence.

I would appreciate to be kept up to date on the matter of the granting of exploration licence EP218.

I look forward to your timely response.

Yours Sincerely,

Kirsten Brink

Srijittra Muir

From: Dale Mills-Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 September 2022 8:44 PM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; young@nt.gov.au
Subject: UNCONVENTIONAL GAS (FRACKING) and LITHIUM MINE exploration license

What are you thinking about giving license to carry out this type of exploration. Have you spoken to the traditional owners of this land? What are their thoughts of the mess you will be making of their land.

This will destroy the delicate and unique balance which exists in that region. The same balance that gives us hot springs, waterfalls, crystal clear clean water, wildlife and clean air.

It does not have a happy ending.

--

Kind regards
Dale Mills-Franklin

Srijitra Muir

From: Mick Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 25 September 2022 5:16 PM
To: Minister Manison; ProtectNT@gmail.com
Subject: Exploration Permit - Litchfield National Park

Dear Minister Manison,

My name is Mick Ward and I reside at [REDACTED] Camden Park NSW.

I am writing this letter to object to the granting of a Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because of the following reasons;

- * The recommendations made by the NT Fracking Inquiry have not been implemented yet
- * The Impacts on Litchfield National Park creeks and waterfalls
- * Water contamination
- * The effects on tourism

I recently visited your Territory and stayed within the area of Litchfield National Park, a park renowned for its accessibility and pristine natural beauty as you well know. I visited numerous attractions whilst within the National Park and from what I have read the exploration licence will include the Wangi Falls. Litchfield National park is an important area to the Koongurrukun, Mak Mak Marranunggu, Werat and Warray Aboriginal people, where their ancestral spirits formed the landscape, plants and animals and are still present in the landscape today. I have informed numerous friends, work colleagues and family that they need to go to this location and see the natural beauty but I fear that if this licence is granted then they along with my grandchildren will not have that opportunity.

On being informed of the exploration licence I attempted to locate more information about Arafura Oils plans and could not locate any online. This was somewhat concerning and left me no option but to write to you requesting the application be denied and any information regarding the application be forwarded to me for consideration. I respectfully request to be kept up to date on this application.

Minister I ask that you deny this application for an exploration licence in an area of such beauty and natural history.

Yours faithfully,

Mick Ward

Srijittra Muir

From: Kevin Groenhuijzen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 25 September 2022 10:15 AM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Lithium Mine and Gas Fracking Exploration Litchfield Park NT. Objection.

Minister for Environment
Ms Lauren Moss
Northern Territory

K M & D S Groenhuijzen

[REDACTED]
Carseldine Qld 4034

Phone: [REDACTED]

Lithium Mine and Gas Fracking Exploration licences, Litchfield Park Northern Territory:

Dear Ms Moss,

I am writing in objection to the potential granting of licences to Victorian business groups to undertake mining exploration in the vicinity of the Litchfield National Park.

The Litchfield National Park and surrounding 'terra firma' represent a unique viewing window of Australia's natural aging and associated flora and fauna. I have enjoyed the pleasure of seeing this wilderness in its natural state as a tourist to the area. My wife and I would be deeply disappointed if its character were to be permanently changed through mining exploration.

Whilst I appreciate the nature of the geology involved lends itself to the existence of potential oil and gas, when you fracture the rock, it can never be restored. I believe this is because it is predominately dolostone, limestone and glauconitic Sandstone. My limited research suggests that rock has three intervals of carbonate rock separated by siliciclastic rock. Damage to the limestone within the siliciclastic rock is permanent.

I enjoyed viewing the result of water seeping through the limestone over years of tropical wet seasons in the form of moss growing abundantly on the walls of the nearby gorges. What guarantee is there, this process won't be upset by research drilling without at least undertaking environmental seismic research?

Given contemporary technology, does there need to be such an intrusive disturbance of the environment as it currently exists, to determine whether mining is feasible? It defies logic to my mind that anyone or any one company can simply apply for a licence to explore without consideration being given to what effect that research may have on the environment.

As Australia progresses toward a more sustainable future in terms of its energy consumption, perhaps a more contemporary utilisation of resources is more appropriate exploration strategy is demanded of the business groups applying for the exploration licences? Indeed, is there a need to mine at all?

Yours sincerely

Srijitra Muir

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 September 2022 5:06 PM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Litchfield National Park
Attachments: Litchfield.docx

Please see the attached.

Email sent using Optus Webmail


Booker Bay

New South Wales 2257

23rd September 2022

Dear

It has come to my attention that your Government has before it submissions for the granting of exploration licences for new lithium & an unconventional gas (fracking) mines, both of which will have the potential to adversely impact the Litchfield National Park.

I have recently visited this beautiful region & had the pleasure of experiencing it's unique geographical features - the hot springs, waterfalls, crystal clear water, wildlife & clean air. This was a once in a lifetime experience & one that I hope would be available for my kids & grandkids, friends & family to enjoy for years to come.

I certainly hope that you would have the preservation of the precious part of Australia uppermost in your thinking when considering these submissions. This is a National Park, proclaimed as such for the enjoyment of all Australians, past, present & future. Please ensure it remains unspoiled.

Yours sincerely

Bill Stafford

Srijitra Muir

From: Sam Moorhead [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 10:36 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss
Subject: Proposed grant of EPs 218 and 220 - objection
Attachments: 20220927_EPs 218 & 220_LtG objection.pdf

Dear Minister Manison,

Please find **attached** a letter objecting to the proposed grant of petroleum exploration permits 218 and 220 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd.

Oil and gas is not the way forward for the NT. It's too late for fossil fuels, and if you keep pushing us in this direction, it'll be too late for the Territory.

Thank you for considering our objection.

Sam (on behalf of the Lock the Gate Alliance)

--

Sam Moorhead
Lock the Gate Alliance
[REDACTED]

This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE

AUSTRALIANS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR LAND, WATER, AND FUTURE

The Hon. Minister Nicole Manison
Northern Territory Government

27 September 2022

OBJECTION - Proposed grant of exploration permits 218 and 220

Lock the Gate writes to oppose the proposed grant of petroleum exploration permits 218 and 220 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd.

The Lock the Gate Alliance is a national collection of grassroots organisations made up of over 120,000 supporters and numerous local groups concerned about risky coal mining, coal seam gas and fracking.

Several of these groups are located in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, as well as rural and remote areas around the NT. Our members include farmers, traditional custodians, conservationists and urban residents. Together, we have a vision of healthy, empowered communities that have fair, democratic processes available to them to care for their land and water.

We are opposed to the grant of new petroleum titles in the NT because of the serious damage to our climate, groundwater, cultures and ecosystems that is inevitably caused by unconventional oil and gas production.

Greenhouse gas emissions must be urgently and absolutely reduced, not merely offset or the problem postponed in light of a nebulous "net zero by 2050" target. Pursuing new or expanded petroleum production is not compatible with a liveable future for the Territory.

Thank you for considering our objection,

Lock the Gate Alliance.

Srijitra Muir

From: Sandy May [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 12:14 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young; ProtectNT@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to EP218
Attachments: Final Report Contamination Pathways p.145.pdf; Final Report List of Issues.pdf; Ground Water under Tipperary Station.pdf; Tipperary Station Maps.pdf

Importance: High

To Hon. Nicole Manison,
Minister for the Department of Industry, Tourism & Trade.

My name is Sandy May, I live near the Township of Adelaide River, I have lived here for 9 years this October.

I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because this is not the first time I have had to fight for the safety of my family, my animals and our farm, including the protection of the underground aquifers that we rely on to provide water to not only us but all our animals and my community. It is most likely going to be contaminated if this permit is to be approved.

My family & Community conducted surveys in 2015 to stop this industry with the following results from the local residents wanting a **FRACK-FREE COMMUNITY**. Coomalie Shire Council was the first declared Frack Free Community in 2015.

Adelaide River 96.5%
Batchelor/ Lake Bennett 98.1%
Silkwood/ Dorat Rd 97%

This would be devastating to not only my husband and me but also to our 4 kids and our 4 grandchildren here in Darwin who love coming to the farm for sleepovers and holidays for our 5 grandchildren in Victoria.

I am also a Driver/ Guide in tourism, this permit would also have an exponential effect on the surrounding Litchfield National Park which brings thousands of tourists to our region along with the money they bring into the Darwin region, but it's also a popular swimming area for the locals of the Darwin Region. Tourism is our 3rd largest industry and this would absolutely destroy it.

The tourism industry is still trying to recover from the impact of Covid, this would destroy a lot of their businesses, as so many of them only operate in Litchfield National Park.

Nicole, please take the time to watch this documentary [Fractured Country - An Unconventional Invasion](#), on how this industry destroyed the families and communities of the Tara/ Chinchilla region in QLD. Put yourself in these people's lives for an hour and learn how devastating it is seeing their children and family so sick, all thanks to the fracking activities in their region. Is this what you would expose my community to?

[Fractured Country - An Unconventional Invasion](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrE7LzZCn1E>

A meeting with you to discuss this further with the affected communities would be greatly appreciated.

My biggest issues with this approval are as listed;

- Water Used by Arafura Oil – 10s or Millions of Litres for the Fracking process
- Water Contamination of the 4 aquifers under these 2 stations this EP218 cover

- The Recommendations made by the NT Fracking Inquiry have not been implemented in the exploration phase
- Methane emissions and impact on the climate
- Health impacts for locals
- Effects on Tourism
- Impact on the natural springs in both LNP and Douglas Hot Springs?
- Impact on the surrounding waterfalls in the Region of this EP218 – Robins Falls, Wangi Falls, Florence Falls, Buley Rock Holes, Cascades, Tjaynera Falls, Tolmer Falls. The loss of these would be devastating
- Noise and light from compression stations and flaring- affect the birds and all wildlife.
- Increased traffic carrying dangerous chemicals on unsuitable roads
- Impacts on Litchfield National Park creeks and waterfalls, Robin Falls, springs, etc
- How will they dispose of toxic and/or radioactive wastewater and solids?
- Where are the financial benefits to Territorians?
- The jobs from these activities are minimal Beetaloo was only 524 at maximum operations- taken from the Pepper Report.
- Taxes used to prop up these companies to poison our Land, Water & Air
- Impact on endangered wildlife
- Impact on our rainwater tanks- we rely on these all year round

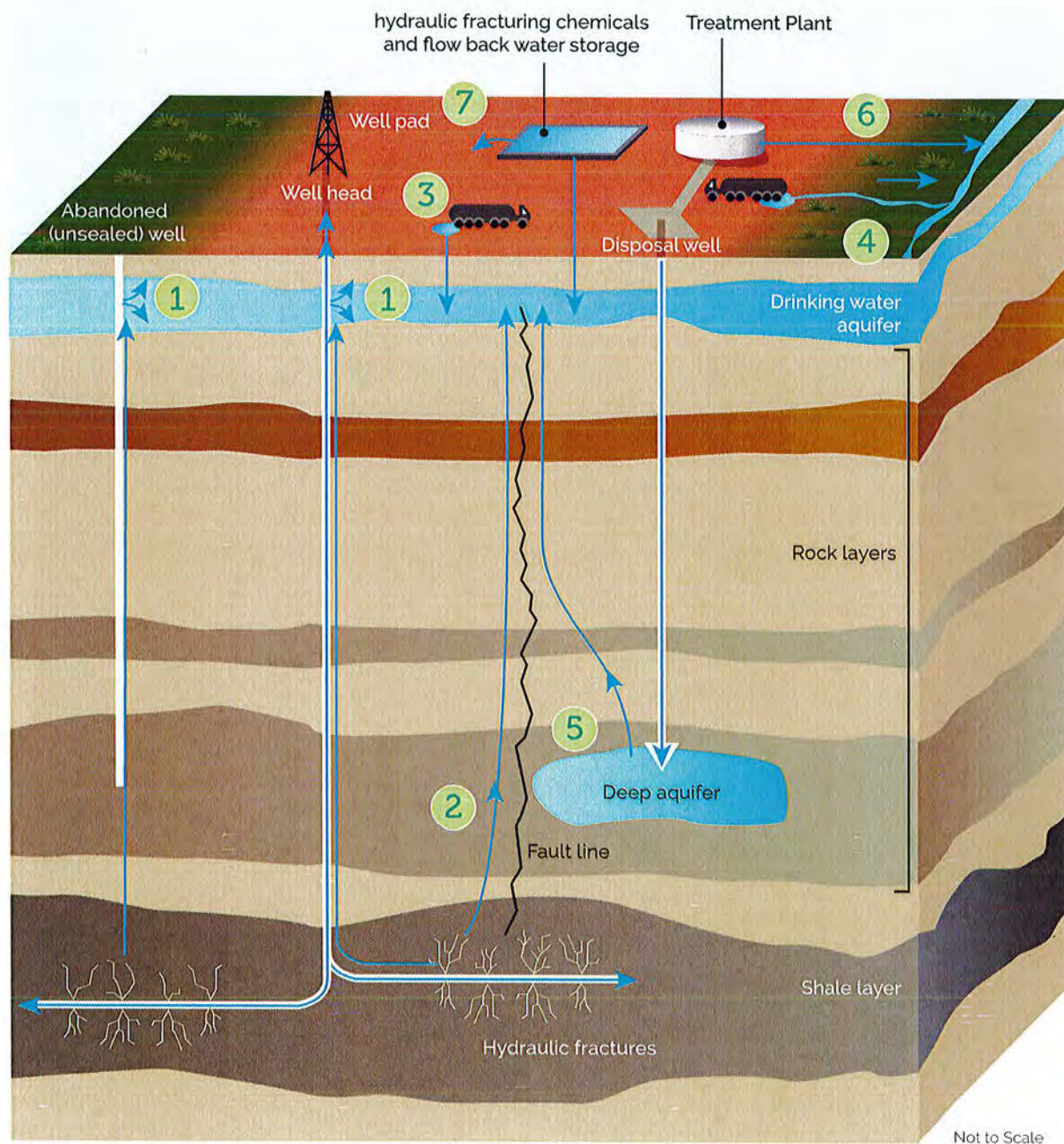
I requested more information on Arafura Oil's plans and who they are.
I request to be kept up to date on the process of this Exploration Permit.

Yours Sincerely,
Sandy May

Sandy May

Adelaide River NT 0846

Figure 7.10: Schematic of the potential contamination pathways from a shale gas site.



- Path 1 - leakage of either hydraulic fracturing fluid, flowback or produced water, or methane from operating or abandoned wells;
- Path 2 - contamination of shallow groundwater via fractures induced by the hydraulic fracturing process;
- Path 3 - surface spills of chemicals, hydraulic fracturing fluid, flowback water or produced water at the well site or other handling facility within the well pad;
- Path 4 - surface spills of chemicals, hydraulic fracturing fluid, flowback water or produced water within the well pad that is washed off-site into a waterbody;
- Path 5 - reinjection of untreated wastewater to deep aquifers, with possible seismic activity and fault reactivation;
- Path 6 - direct discharge of treated or untreated wastewaters to surface waters or drainage lines;
- Path 7 - overtopping or failure of wastewater storage ponds;
- Path 8 - spills during transport of chemicals or wastewater from either road transports or pipelines (not shown).

Appendix 2 Final list of issues

1 Water

Water quality

Groundwater

- There may be a risk of groundwater contamination as a result of:
 - induced connectivity between hydraulically fractured shale formations and overlying or underlying aquifers;
 - surface spills of chemicals, flowback water or produced water into near-surface groundwater;
 - leaky wells as a result of poor design, construction, operation or abandonment practices or as a result of well degradation over the life of the well;
 - reinjection of flowback water, produced water or treatment brines into a groundwater aquifer;
 - induced connectivity between different groundwater systems as a result of seismic activity caused by hydraulic fracturing or reinjection of water; and/or
 - changed groundwater pressure regimes from hydraulic fracturing activities.

Surface water

- There may be a risk of impacts on surface water quality as a result of the following types of incidents:
 - on-site spills, including as a result of extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods;
 - spills that occur during transportation of chemicals to or from the site during the development and production phases;
 - spills of flowback water, produced water or brines produced by water treatment; and/or
 - inputs of sediment from erosion of road and pipeline corridors.

Water supply and distribution (quantity)

- There may be a risk of adverse environmental impacts as a result of reduced water supply due to the large amounts of water being extracted for use in hydraulic fracturing.
- There may be a risk of changes to the timing and/or quantity of surface water flows because of the discharge of produced water, which may be significant particularly in arid to semi-arid landscapes.
- There may be a risk to surface water and groundwater flow processes as the result of possible seismic activity caused by hydraulic fracturing or reinjection of water.
- There may be a risk of surface disturbance affecting surface flow paths and altering infiltration.

Aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity

- There may be a risk of adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity, including groundwater dependent ecosystems. This may result from changes in the quality and/or quantity of surface and/or groundwater available to them.

Amenity values

- There may be adverse impacts on general amenity values such as in national parks, rangelands and recreational fishing areas. This may result from changes in the quality and/or quantity of water available.

Public health

- There may be adverse impacts on human and livestock health due to changes to water quality, supply and distribution as a result of hydraulic fracturing and the associated activities.

Aboriginal people and their culture

- Natural water bodies are central to traditional land use and many sites of significance to Aboriginal people relate to water. A reduction in either water quantity or quality may impair the traditional use and/or value of the sites.

Economic

- Changes to water quality, supply and distribution may have an adverse impact on industries that may coexist with the onshore unconventional gas industry, such as agriculture, pastoralism, fishing and tourism.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

2 Land

Terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity

- There may be a risk that hydraulic fracturing and the associated activities will have an adverse impact on terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity in the Northern Territory. Specifically, there may be a risk of:
 - biodiversity loss on a local and regional scale as a result of areas being cleared for roads, pipelines and drill pads or as a result of spills;
 - biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem function due to habitat loss and fragmentation;
 - adverse impacts on terrestrial ecosystems, including fauna and flora, as a result of changes to water quality and availability;
 - biodiversity loss and ecosystem function due to the spread of weeds;
 - impacts on biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions due to changed fire regimes;
 - adverse impacts on fauna as a result of increased noise and light from gas operations;
 - loss of biodiversity due to inadequate knowledge of biodiversity assets leading to inappropriate planning of regional development;
 - disruption of surface water flows at the landscape scale by road and pipeline infrastructure;
 - loss of locally important or sensitive sites due to inappropriate location of infrastructure within a development area; and/or
 - increased human activity, roads and pipelines acting as barriers and corridors for faunal movement and the drinking of wastewater.

Soil health

- There may be a risk that the chemicals used in the drilling and hydraulic fracturing process will have an adverse impact on soil health, including as a result of spills of flowback water.
- There may be a risk that there will be compaction of soils underneath production pads or along pipelines.

Aboriginal people and their culture

- The landscape, terrestrial ecosystems, plants and animals are central to traditional cultural values. Adverse impacts to these things may have an adverse impact on Aboriginal cultural values.

Seismic activity

- There may be a risk of seismic activity caused either by the hydraulic fracturing process or the reinjection of wastewater into the ground.

Subsidence

- There may be a risk that the drilling and hydraulic fracturing process causes land subsidence.

Economic

- An adverse impact on terrestrial ecosystems may be a risk to industries that co-exist with the onshore unconventional gas industry, such as agriculture, pastoralism, fishing and tourism.

Amenity values

- The Panel recognises that the Northern Territory has iconic wilderness values as a core part of the Australian outback. There may be a risk that the development of the unconventional gas industry will have an adverse impact on the outback experience (for example, tourism) through infrastructure development (for example, the construction of pipelines and processing plants) and increased traffic, noise and light (from flaring).
- There may be a risk of solastalgia.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

3 Air

Public health

- The possible health risks associated with the release of gases from the hydraulic fracturing process are discussed below in '1.4 Public health'.

Climate change

- There may be a risk that greenhouse gases, including hydrocarbons (methane and ethane) and carbon dioxide, will be released during hydraulic fracturing and the associated activities. Emissions may be from sources such as wellheads, pipelines, compression stations and final use. The potential contribution of hydraulic fracturing and the associated activities to the burden of greenhouse gas emissions will be assessed by the Panel.

Amenity values

- There may be a risk that there will be adverse impacts on amenity values, such as in national parks and rangelands, due to gaseous emissions and flaring.

Air contamination

- There may be a risk that soil contaminated by spills of fracking fluids or wastewater becomes airborne as dust, causing harm to the environment and to human health.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

4 Public health

Drilling and fracking chemicals

- There may be a risk that chemicals used during the drilling and hydraulic fracturing process are harmful to humans and livestock. Further, there may be a risk that those chemicals come into contact with humans or livestock via groundwater or atmospheric pathways. While the concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals in the water are low, the actual amount of chemicals can be significant and may pose a threat to the water supply if not properly managed.

Hydrocarbons and BTEX

- There may be a risk that hydrocarbons associated with the extracted gas come into contact with humans or livestock via groundwater or atmospheric pathways. This may include

aromatic hydrocarbons such as BTEX, which have featured prominently in some risk assessments relating to flowback water from petroleum and unconventional gas extraction activities in the US. The addition of BTEX in drilling and fracking fluids is prohibited in the Northern Territory.

Radioactive substances

- There may be a risk that naturally occurring radioactive materials from underground come into contact with humans or livestock as a result of the drilling or hydraulic fracturing process.

Mental health and wellbeing

- There may be a risk that the mental health and wellbeing of persons could be affected by an unconventional gas project. These factors could include increased costs of living associated with changing property values, access to social services, business failures, increased traffic, effects on the natural environment and concerns about the amenity of the local area, including solastalgia.

Diesel fumes

- There may be a risk of emissions from plant and equipment, such as diesel fumes from drilling equipment and pumps, and from off-site increases in road traffic.

Physical safety

- There may be a risk that physical safety may be compromised by factors associated with hydraulic fracturing, including road transport accidents.

Aboriginal health

- There may be a risk that as a consequence of the possible impacts described above, the physical and mental health of Aboriginal persons and communities, as a group that is especially vulnerable and disadvantaged, is particularly affected (that is, the 'gap' is increased and not decreased).

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

5 Aboriginal people and their culture

Land ownership

- There may be a risk that hydraulic fracturing or the associated activities will disrupt traditional practices that connect Aboriginal landowning groups with their country and underpin recognition of their ownership of that land.
- There may be a risk that there is inadequate or inappropriate consultation with Aboriginal landholders in obtaining access to their lands and/or permission to carrying out any onshore unconventional shale gas development.

Benefits

- There may be a risk that the development of the industry will occur without short and long term benefits flowing to local Aboriginal communities.

Culture, values and traditions

- There may be a risk that the above and/or below ground disturbance associated with drilling and hydraulic fracturing of onshore shale gas formations will have an adverse impact on Aboriginal culture, values and the traditions that connect landowning groups with their country and sustain community cohesion.
- There may be a risk that access to and the use of traditional lands will be denied or restricted by the presence of any onshore unconventional shale gas development.
- There may be a risk that sacred sites and cultural landscapes are degraded and damaged both above and below the ground.

Community wellbeing

- The development of the onshore unconventional shale gas industry may have an adverse impact on the wellbeing of Aboriginal communities.
- There may be a risk of solastalgia caused by any onshore unconventional shale gas development.
- There may be a risk that any onshore unconventional shale gas industry causes community division in respect of those who may benefit from any industry and those who will not.

Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems

- The development of the unconventional gas industry may have an adverse impact on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems important to Aboriginal culture.

Aboriginal health

- There is a risk of an exacerbated adverse impact on Aboriginal health, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities and disadvantage of that population.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

6 Social impacts

Housing and rents

- There may be impacts on local housing, which may decrease or increase rents and house prices as a result of an increased population.

Insurance

- There may be a risk that there will be an increase in insurance costs and liabilities of landowners, occupiers, and traditional owners.

Health services

- There may be impacts on the local health system (hospitals, health services and so on) as a result of an increased population, including that there may be increased health services in remote communities as a result of industry's presence.

Education

- There may be an impact on the local education system as a result of an increased population.

Infrastructure

- There may be an impact on infrastructure, such as roads, as a result of increased traffic.

Livelihoods

- There may be an impact on livelihoods.

Long term benefits

- There may be a risk that the development of the industry will occur without short and long term benefits flowing to the local community.

Community cohesion

- There may be an adverse impact on community cohesion and resilience. That is, there may be a risk of social division being created between those who benefit from the development of any onshore unconventional shale gas industry and those who do not.

Crime

- There may be an increase in crime.

Employment

- They may be an impact on local employment and skill levels.
- There may be negative impact caused by an influx of FIFO employees.

Business

- There may be an impact on local business opportunities.

Amenity

- There may be a risk that the amenity of people will be adversely impacted by hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities.

Social licence to operate

- There may be a risk that no social licence to operate an onshore unconventional shale gas industry exists.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

7 Economic impacts

Distribution

- There may be a risk that any economic benefits will not be shared by the regions that are directly affected by the industry and/or will not be shared equitably between the gas companies, the government, and the community.

Property values

- There may be a risk that there will be a decrease or increase in existing property values.

Other industries

- There may be a risk that there will be an adverse impact on other businesses, such as tourism, fishing, agricultural and pastoral businesses.

Energy security

- There may be an impact on the energy security of the Territory.

Employment

- There may be an impact on employment in the Territory.

Net impacts

- There may be a risk that any economic benefits will not outweigh economic detriments.
- There may be an opportunity cost of investing in an onshore unconventional shale gas industry rather than in renewable energy.
- There may be a risk of residents leaving a particular region because of the presence of an onshore unconventional shale gas industry.

Management

- There may be a risk that, if not properly managed, any economic benefits will result in 'boom and bust' economic activity.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

8 Land access

Consultation

- There may be a risk that gas companies do not consult adequately with land owners, occupiers, or traditional owners, in gaining access to the land for exploration and extraction purposes.

Consent

- There may be a risk that gas companies enter the land without obtaining the consent of the landowner, occupier, or traditional owners, causing conflict.

Conditions

- There may be a risk that gas companies and landowners, occupiers, and traditional owners, do not negotiate mutually beneficial conditions associated with any agreement permitting access.

Compensation

- There may be a risk that compensation paid for access and/or disturbance to land will not be adequate.
- There may be a risk that if there is an incident in the exploration, extraction or production of any gas, the land may not be properly remediated or the land owners, occupiers, or traditional owners may not be adequately compensated.

Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

9 Regulatory framework

Failure to protect the environment

- There may be a risk that the regulatory framework does not adequately protect the environment (water, land, and air) from risks associated with hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities.
- There may be a risk that the regulatory framework does not ensure adequate, or any, remediation and/or rehabilitation of any environmental damage caused by hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities.
- There may be a risk that the cost of any remediation and/or rehabilitation of environmental damage caused by hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities is not passed on, either in whole or in part, to the entity that caused the harm, but is passed on to the public.

Land access

- There may be a risk the regulatory framework does not appropriately balance the rights of landowners, occupiers, and traditional owners, with those of gas companies.

Public health

- There may be a risk the regulatory framework does not adequately mitigate public health risks associated with the onshore unconventional shale gas industry.

Aboriginal culture and communities

- There may be a risk the regulatory framework does not adequately protect Aboriginal culture, values, traditions and communities from risks associated with the unconventional shale gas industry.

Social impacts

- There may be a risk the regulatory framework does not adequately mitigate the social risks associated with the onshore unconventional shale gas industry.

Economic impacts

- There may be a risk the regulatory framework does not ensure that any economic benefits are appropriately distributed between the gas companies, the Government and the local community.

Compliance and enforcement

- There may be a risk of inadequate monitoring or enforcement of compliance with the regulatory framework. This may arise from, for example, inadequate resourcing of the regulatory agency, inadequate expertise, or inadequate training.
- There may be a risk that sanctions provided for in the regulatory framework are inadequate or are not utilised by the regulator.
- There may be a risk that the cost of complying with the regulatory framework is too high for industry and the industry becomes uneconomic.

Access to justice

- There may be a risk that access to justice by the public is denied or restricted by the regulatory framework.

Complexity

- There may be a risk that the regulatory framework developed is too complex.
- There may be a risk that given its complexity, any regulatory framework that is developed is rushed and inadequate.
- There may be a risk that there is inadequate information about the long term risks associated with hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities to develop a suitably robust regulatory framework.

Regulatory capture

- There may be a risk of 'regulatory capture', whereby the regulatory body becomes inappropriately aligned with industry and becomes reluctant to regulate against the interest of any onshore unconventional shale gas industry.
- There may be a risk of the perception of regulatory capture which may have a tendency to undermine confidence in both the regulatory body and the Government.

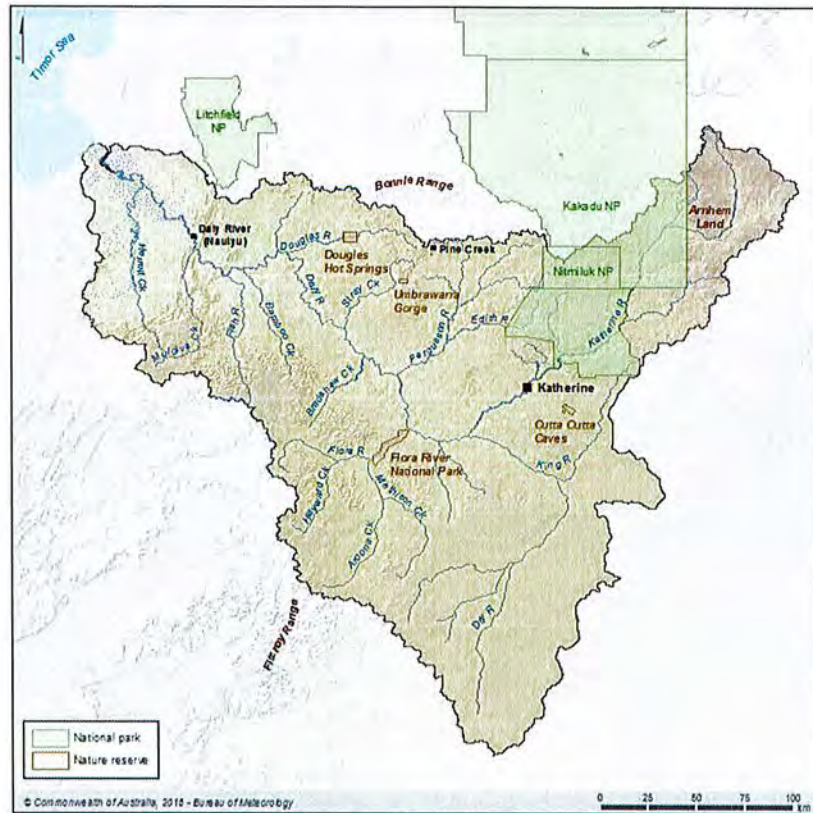
Political risks

- There may be a risk that the Government is perceived to be subject to undue influence by the gas industry thereby leading to a loss of public confidence in the Government and the democratic process.
- There may be a risk that, given the short term nature of the political cycle, the long term consequences of any onshore unconventional shale gas industry cannot be appropriately regulated.

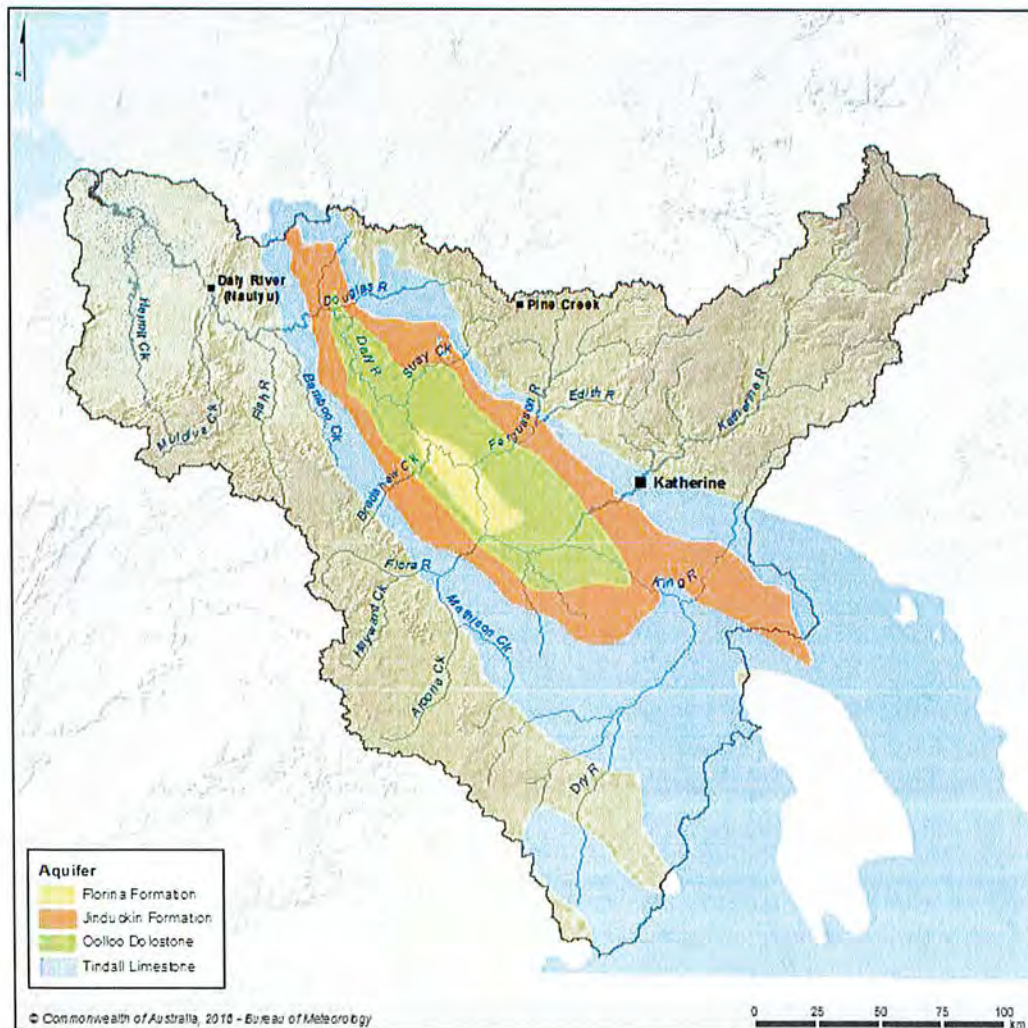
Cumulative risks

- There may be cumulative risks associated with some or all of the risks identified above.

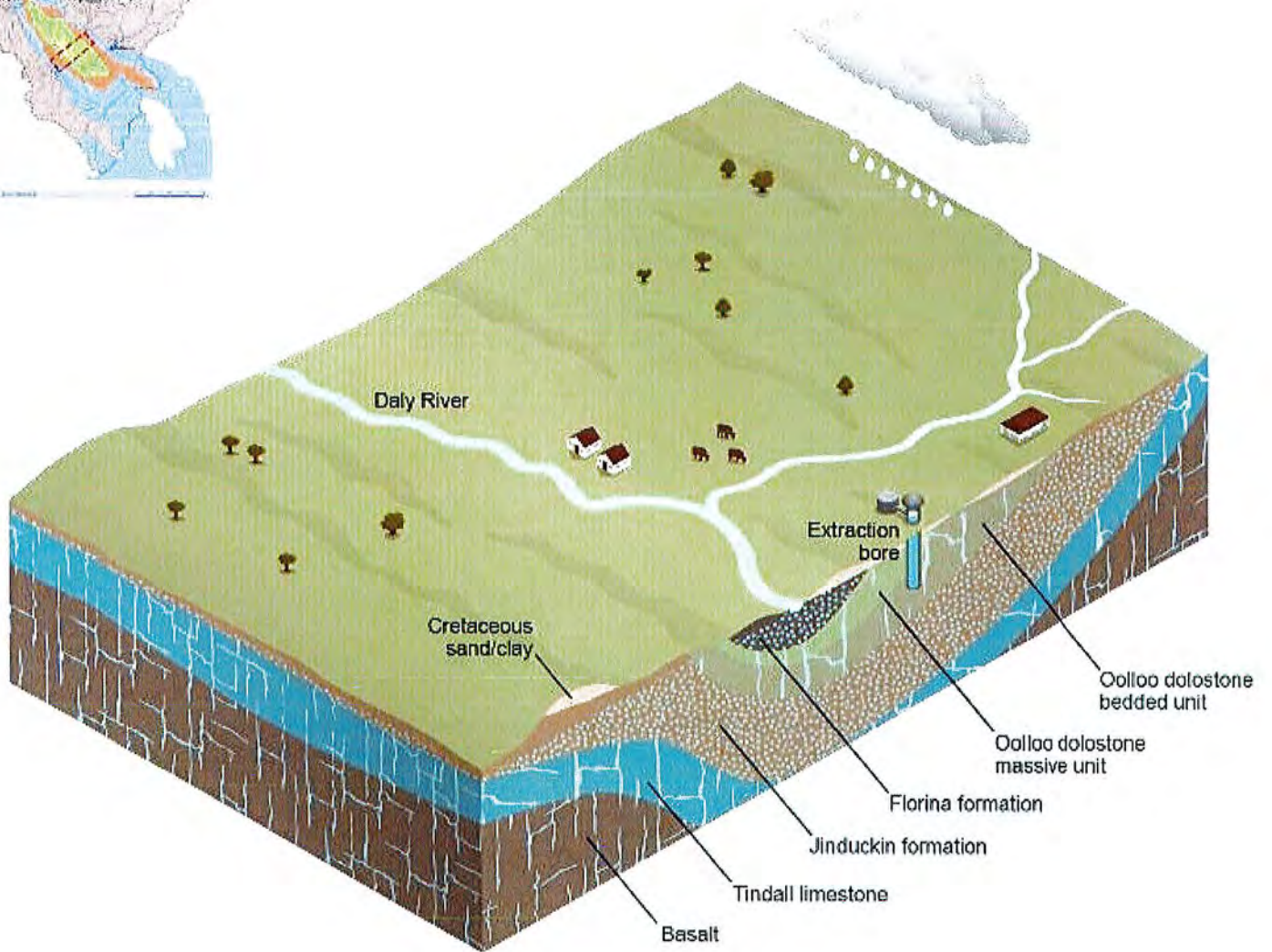
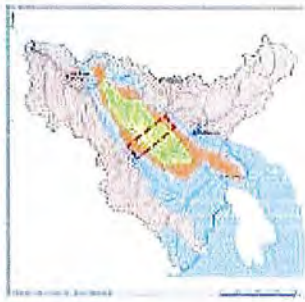
Ground Water under Tipperary Station



Daly Catchment area



Daly Ground Water Aquifers: Florina Formation, Jinduckin Formation, Ooloo Dolostone, Tindall Limestone



Daly Ground Water Cross Section

Source: BoM <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/nwa/2016/daly/regiondescription/geographicinformation.shtml>

Srijitra Muir

From: Protect NT [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 12:30 PM
To: Minister Manison; Chief Minister; Minister Moss
Subject: Objection to EP218
Attachments: Protect NT Letter of Objection to EP218.pdf; Final Report Contamination Pathways p.145.pdf; Final Report List of Issues.pdf; Ground Water under Tipperary Station.pdf; Tipperary Station Maps.pdf

Dear Minister Manison,

Please find Protect NT Inc.'s objection to the granting of EP218 and supporting documentation attached.

Kind regards,

Pauline Cass

--

Protect NT Inc.

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/743562139323193/>

27 September 2022

To Minister of Mines and Industry, Nicole Manison,

Re: Objection to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Permit (EP) 218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd.

Protect NT Incorporated is a group of over 1,300 Territorians determined to protect our land, water, climate, and lifestyles for future generations of Territorians. Onshore shale oil and gas hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities threatens everything we value about living in the Northern Territory. We care deeply for the Northern Territory and have a deep connection to its lands, people and water. This land is our home, the people are our family and friends, and everything we cherish relies on fresh, potable water to survive.

Firstly, we would like to convey our deep disappointment with the total lack of community consultation and engagement by both the Department of Mines and Industry and Arafura Oil Pty Ltd, not even the affected stations were aware of this EP being granted until we informed them. This lack of communication is unacceptable.

Secondly, we found the lack of any information available for EP218 to be unacceptable. Where are the plans and schedules for this EP? Where are the Environmental Management Plans? Where are the detailed water studies? Where are the SREBA's for this area? Is there an Environmental Impact Statement? Granting an EP before this work is done is putting the cart before the horse. There is nothing publicly available online except for the STRIKE map and the Minister's notice in Government Gazette G30. As a result of this complete paucity of EP218 specific information, our objection to this EP is based on the findings of the generic NT Fracking Inquiry's Pepper Report.

What we do know from the BOM website is that there are 4 stacked aquifers beneath Tipperary Station (Florina Formation, Jinduckin Formation, Ooloo Dolostone, Tindall Limestone) and that they feed the bores, springs and waterfalls in the region. The Pepper Report tells us that hydraulic fracturing for shale oil and gas can cause water contamination (p.145) and water depletion, both of which will impact local residents' water supply, agriculture, tourism, as well as the environment and groundwater dependent ecosystems, impacting Robin Falls, Douglas Hot Springs, Litchfield National Park, Daly River, and all the springs which occur throughout the region.

Both Litchfield Station and Tipperary Station border Litchfield National Park. Litchfield National Park is an iconic protected area with highly significant environmental biodiversity and cultural values. Its waterfalls, hikes and wildlife make it the NT's most popular national park for locals and tourists all year round, supporting a well-established tourism industry. The information contained in the Pepper Report leaves no doubt that granting EP218 will put all this at risk. For this reason alone, EP218 must not be granted.

Our members, friend and family in Adelaide River, Batchelor and Daly River townships will be personally affected if EP218 is granted, both through the loss of their existing jobs in tourism, hospitality and agriculture, and the loss of property values should their water be impacted. The loss of these existing jobs will not be replaced by jobs in the oil and gas industry. The Acil Allen economic

report in the Pepper Report found that in their best case scenario, only an average of 524 extra jobs each year will be created by fracking, not the thousands of jobs spruiked by our politicians and the oil and gas industry (Appendix 17, Figure 12.3, p. 134).

The Pepper Report's Final List of Issues (Appendix 2, p. 7) identified 116 issues created by the onshore shale oil and gas industry. This means that locals and tourists will also be impacted by increased traffic carrying dangerous goods such as toxic chemicals through populated areas, lights and noise from flaring and infrastructure, health issues caused by water contamination and fugitive emissions, increased crime, and many other negative impacts should this EP be granted.

There is no social licence for hydraulic fracturing in the region, with previous surveys of Batchelor, Adelaide River, and other Coomalie regions resulting in objections to fracking totalling over 95% for these areas and Coomalie Shire declaring itself a frack free zone.

EP218 must not be granted for all of the above reasons. We have attached supporting documents to our email to further support the refusal of this EP.

Yours Sincerely,

Pauline Cass

for Protect NT Inc.

E: 

Srijitra Muir

From: Bodil Conroy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 12:34 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran.Young@nt.gov
Subject: EP218-Objection
Attachments: EP218.docx

Ms Bodil Conroy

[REDACTED]
Palmerston

NT 0831

Mob: [REDACTED]

To The Honourable Nicole Manison, Minister for Mining and Industry.

My name is Bodil Conroy and I live at [REDACTED] Gray, N. T. 0830

I object to the granting of Petroleum Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because

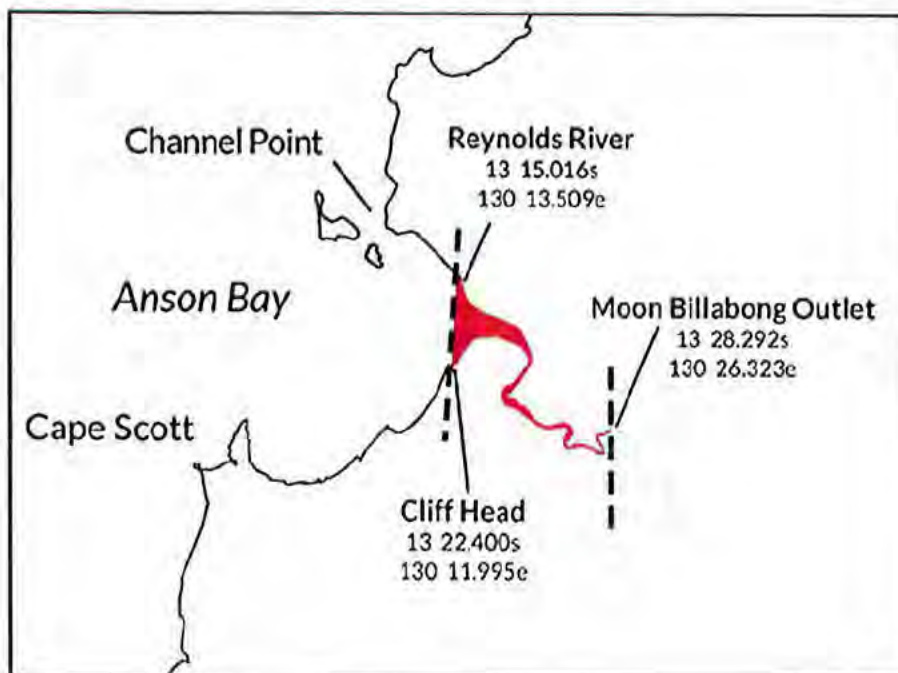
For various reasons, the foremost and most important being the danger fracking poses to our beautiful world heritage parks from water loss and contaminated water from fracking and their insatiable desire to take water which is designated for the environment, cultural practices, people, and nearby stations.

We are all aware now of the water contamination which occurs from Fracking for Gas in the NT, this has the potential to contaminate surface water as well, from extreme weather events, spillage which occurs from transportation of chemicals, spills of flowback water, produced water and brines from and erosion risks from pipelines and roads into these areas for wellpads and transportation of chemicals.

Risks associated from lack of run off and surface water which has been diverted and the drawdown from the aquifers will potentially leave natural springs, rivers and wet season creeks without their environment flows, which are critical to continued river system health over the dry season. Animals and birds rely on small waterholes/creeks to drink from during the dry season.

Apart from the obvious surface land risks from lack of normal flows, we also have the small creatures (macroinvertebrates) which inhabit the river systems, without sufficient flow to continue their lifecycle through to the next wet season. The river health will un-naturally decline due to lack of sufficient water to continue their natural cycle. This also has the potential to change the wetlands and monsoon forests, drying them out and leaving them, vulnerable to dry season fires. The risk from flaring and dry season fires is a risk which should not be taken lightly. I believe the risk is too high and that is one of the reasons the EP should not be granted.

There is also the real risk to the Parkland, rangelands and recreational fishing areas.



As can be seen from the map from Daly River Area <https://nt.gov.au/marine/recreational-fishing/when-and-where-to-fish/rules-for-fishing-in-specific-areas/daly-river-fish-management-zone>

The areas will be impacted from runoff and contaminated water from EP 218 where the rivers run directly into Anson Bay. This area overlays the Daly Basin.

From the ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-08-13/douglas-daly-stage-two-plans-released-by-nt-farmers/12547000>

What about the water?

The Douglas Daly region is about 200 kilometres south of Darwin and sits on top of the Ooloo Dolostone aquifer, which has almost been fully allocated in terms of sustainable water yields for farming.

The northern Territory website summarises the importance of looking after our groundwater from water resources of the NT report, <https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-resources-of-the-nt/groundwater>

In the Northern Territory (NT), 90% of the water supply comes from groundwater.

The groundwater is stored in and moves through many small interconnected spaces or fractures.

Groundwater comes from rainfall and is an important part of the water cycle.

Water not used by vegetation filters through the soil until it reaches the saturated zone. This is called groundwater recharge. A lot of recharge can be expected during heavy rain.

The water table or level in an aquifer will rise and fall depending on variations in recharge.

Aquifers can also get water from rivers and streams draining into the ground.

Overuse of groundwater poses a high risk to springs, soaks and rivers.

We have a risk of contamination of our groundwater resources due to the interconnectedness between aquifers, considering there are several in this vicinity including Ooloo (the uppermost formation of the Daly groundwater basin) and overlies the Jinduckin formation and Tindall Limestone Aquifer. Groundwater from the Ooloo aquifer provide the majority of the dry season flow for the Daly River. From the study conducted and published in 25th July 2018 there is ample evidence to contaminants into the groundwater as they tested 25 bores. They also state remind people to use and store pesticides and fertilisers. My concern is that the chemicals from fracturing are extremely toxic (with over 100 chemicals) and can cause more harm to the groundwater and the rivers from chemical spills and overflowing holding tanks than the risk from any chemicals stored from station owners or landholders growing food products.

The Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024 has stated that they would recommend no new water or returned water is licensed for the plan area until such time that the estimated sustainable yield is reviewed and no longer considered over allocated.

Water allocation plans are established under section 22B of the Water Act 1992. The Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024 applies to part of the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District. Water resource management in a water control district is to be in accordance with water allocation plans declared in respect of the district.

https://depws.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007_544129/water-resources-report-index.pdf

Library & Archives NT. Northern Territory. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Water Resources Division (2019). Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019 - 2024. E-Publications Collection. <https://hdl.handle.net/10070/776644>.

We have the potential to remain a number one tourist destination for Australians, who love their fishing and people from overseas wanting the Cultural experience. Natural water bodies are central to land use and cultural practices for Aboriginal people. This can't be risked for unwanted and risky fracking enterprises, who will leave the NT looking like a lunar landscape when they have finished taking the gas to sell overseas. We will be left with a destroyed environment and contaminated air and water bodies. Tourism will be impacted; lives will be impacted. Our fantastic rivers will be impacted due to overflow events.

I urge you to reconsider granting this licence and implement the full recommendations from the Pepper Inquiry. We can't afford the risk this application poses to our grandchildren's grandchildren.

We must look to the future generations and what the cumulative effects of continuing to grant these licences will cost. I know, the cost is too high. No-one can afford it. Our land can not afford. Nor our water.

I will ask that I be informed of any decisions and future information pertinent to this EP218.

Kind regards

Bodil Conroy.

Srijittra Muir

From: michael fonda [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 7:31 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Jacqueline Taylor; Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Electorate Daly
Subject: Objection to granting of EP 218
Attachments: Objection to Granting of Exploration Permit 218.docx

Dear Minister Manison,

Please find attached an objection from myself and Jacqueline Taylor regarding the granting of EP 218.

With thanks,

Michael Fonda and Jacqueline Taylor

OBJECTION TO GRANTING OF EXPLORATION
PERMIT 218 (SECTION 18 OF THE
PETROLEUM ACT NT) LODGED BY ARAFURA
OIL PTY LTD

OBJECTION LODGED BY THE LANDHOLDERS:

Dr Michael Fonda and Jacqueline Taylor, [REDACTED]

To: The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA
Minister for Mining and Industry
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade,
GPO Box 4550
Darwin NT 0801

27 September 2022

Dear Minister:

We, Michael Fonda and Jacqui Taylor hereby object to the granting of an Exploration Permit (EP218) to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd. We own and occupy freehold [REDACTED] along Dorat Road. We share continuity with the aquifers, geology, climate, landscapes and road network serving the Tipperary Group's properties over which EP218 is proposed. Furthermore, we are acutely aware of a shared atmosphere through local smoke pollution largely arising from unplanned fires as a result of arson.

Our reasons for objection are as follows:

1. No confidence in the applicant

The applicant, Arafura Oil Pty Ltd, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Roper Resources Pty Ltd, which is a subsidiary of MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd, which is a member of the Meijin Energy Group Co Ltd in China¹. The Australian parent company, MacMines, has a dysfunctional website (<https://www.macmines.com>) and has apparently withdrawn from a coal mining prospect in the Galilee Basin in Queensland². The corporate structure gives us no confidence that the applicant will meet any liabilities arising from its exploration nor give a fair return to the Australian Treasury from its investment. Australia is incapable of prosecuting any case for claimants in China.

2. No confidence in assertion of landholder rights

Landholders encompassed by and neighbouring EP218 experience frequent and untrammelled trespass, arson, discharge of firearms and dogs off leash in violation of various NT Government Acts (e.g. Bushfires and Firearms Acts) and Coomalie Community Council by-laws. There is little or no redress and we have no confidence

¹ <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/?a=424241> accessed 14/09/2022

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/profile/company/MEI1Z:CH> accessed 14/09/2022

³ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-23/macmines-abandons-mining-lease-applications/11138310> accessed 14/09/2022

that our rights under law will be asserted if conflict arises with the applicant or its agents. The NT Government asserts that it protects affected landholders by legislation and industry codes of conduct. We experience contrary evidence that these prescriptions are not enforced and perceive a bias to the explorers who assert exaggerated and subsequently false claims about community, employment and economic benefits of their investments and activities.

3. Exploration rationale is false

We are not party to the applicant's proposal to the Department in support of EP218. We note the general terms under the Petroleum Act 1984, as 'explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose in the area covered by the permit including (but not limited to) use of machinery and equipment for carrying out works, removal of material for testing, use of water resources for domestic use and to seek renewals'. Our understanding is that the applicant intends to use hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as the exploration tool in an area of the Daly-Reynolds Floodplain-Estuary System. This will require penetration of the aquifers of the Daly River catchment, namely: Fractured Precambrian rocks (minor), Karstic carbonate rocks - Tindall Limestone, Jinduckin Formation and Ooloo Dolostone (major), and Cretaceous sediments (minor)⁴. Of relevance is the integrity of the Ooloo Dolostone and associated Cretaceous sediments, inter-aquifer connection (or lack thereof) and leakage, expansion of arsenic contamination found in some bores and changes in groundwater chemistry if these aquifers are breached by fracking. It is unclear whether sufficient baseline data has been gathered in the locality of EP218 in order to meet the recommendations of 'The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory 2018' as accepted by the NT Government. We further note that the integrity of water resources in the Daly River catchment is of considerable public interest⁵. Counter to these concerns are arguments that exploration is of minor risk relative to production. However, we contend that a single failure can have catastrophic consequences. There is no multiplier effect. Rather there is abundant evidence of widespread environmental contamination from single oil well and oil tanker failures, gas well and gas pipeline failures. Full remediation has proved impossible after such events. Furthermore, it is economically irrational to conclude that exploration is not conducted without the intention of production. Thus, exploration is a prelude to production and production is unjustified as we further argue below. Rather we contend exploration should be rejected and the issuance of permits closed in line with

⁴ CSIRO (2009) Water in the Daly region, pp 273-361 in CSIRO (2009) Water in the Timor Sea Drainage Division. A report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Northern Australia Sustainable Yields Project. CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, Australia. xl + 508pp

⁵ Beaumont T, Pursey A, Booth C. A fork in the river: The consequences of a major new cotton industry in the Northern Territory, Centre for Conservation Geography, 2022

community expectations that global climate change will be ameliorated with immediate effect by cessation of the extraction and combustion of gas (and other 'fossil fuels')⁶.

4. Global impacts on a climate supporting life are unjustified

Support for increased carbon pollution of the atmosphere through issuances of permits such as EP218 is unjustified. Any project resulting in the release of carbon pollution either fugitive or intentional (e.g. combustion of gas such as flaring of wells) contributes to the adverse impacts of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere that ultimately will destroy the biosphere (life on earth). A full accounting of the social cost of generating carbon pollution from, in this case exploration through hydraulic fracturing, should be weighed against no or alternative actions before issuance of any permit. The United Nations estimates this as AUD275 per tonne of CO₂ released with most of this (49%) accruing to human health costs⁷. In the case of exploration, carbon emissions will arise from the transport and operation of plant and wwequipment, transport of personnel, land clearing for access and drilling platforms, fugitive and intentional emissions. These costs should be weighed against the alternatives of status quo (e.g. retention of carbon stores in vegetation and carbon cycles in functional ecosystems) and/or the activities of the Tipperary Group on their holding. A counter argument is that the public interest is best served by exploration and consequent production of gas. In refutation of this argument we support the following statement referencing the activities of the exploration permit as 'the project': "The effects of climate change will cause significant damage to the environment, the economy and the mental and physical wellbeing of humans if the volume of greenhouse gas in the earth's atmosphere is not reduced. The [project] would, if approved, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore the level of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The [project] will, if approved, therefore contribute to grave environmental harm and harm to human beings ... and is therefore contrary to the public interest."⁸

5. Local impacts on community are unjustified

The majority of the landholdings impacted locally by this application are residences and workplaces. We provide ecosystem services and contributions to the liveable biosphere. Thus, the productivity of landholders extends beyond the provision of goods and services and investments in the NT economy. A significant portion of the landholdings affected by the permit application contribute to ecosystem services of value to the community under informal dedicated land management and formal arrangements (e.g. Land for Wildlife, Territory NRM conservation agreements). Furthermore, landholders exhaust significant labour and capital on weed management, fire protection and

⁶ <https://theconversation.com/now-we-begin-10-simple-ways-to-make-australias-climate-game-truly-next-level-190427> accessed 14/09/2022

⁷ [Australia finally has new climate laws. Now, let's properly consider the astounding social cost of carbon \(theconversation.com\)](#) accessed 14/09/2022

⁸ [The Gomeri people have fought Santos' Narrabri Gas Project for a decade. They hope a novel climate change argument could help them win - ABC News](#) accessed 14/09/2022

maintenance of carbon reserves in extensive woodlands, and these contribute to a liveable biosphere in the face of carbon pollution and consequent climate change. These services such as potable water, clean air, carbon capture, biodiversity conservation typically remain unrecognised until lost when significant capital investments are required for their restoration (if at all possible). The experience of landholders along Dorat and Daly River Roads is that prospectors are responsible for arson (to clear passage for exploration) and damage to ecosystems through land clearing, drilling, contamination of water sources and fracturing of ground water aquifers. Furthermore, vehicles and plant equipment are often responsible for unbridled deposition and dispersal of weeds. Exploration requires heavy plant and equipment whose transport impacts the integrity and utility of local roads. Dorat Road between the intersection of Daly River Road and the Stuart Highway has a length limit of 19 m. This restriction is regularly flouted, particularly by stock carriers at nights. Regulation and restoration of all these impacts have proved challenging for governments . Thus, adventitious exploration of dubious benefit by a likely unaccountable company is a poor reward for conscientious landholders furthering the well-being of local, national and global communities.

6. Exacerbation of landholder anxiety leading to poor mental health

Further to item 5, landholders can experience significant anxiety leading to poor mental health due to infractions on their rights that threaten their lives and livelihoods. The uncertainty arising from repeated exploration applications in the mining and petroleum industries without good cause (see 3) adds to this anxiety. The NT Government has a duty of care to its citizenry and to demonstrate this in fair dealings with landholders and their properties. Furthermore, as the local General Practitioner for over 14 years, Michael Fonda has witnessed the implications of stress associated with a variable climate and environmental degradation on patients' physical and mental wellbeing.

7. Impediments to future investment

Landholders invest in the Northern Territory's economy through their own productive activities and purchases of goods and services from NT businesses. The repeated infringement of exploration permits (and licenses) on landholdings defrays further investment under an uncertain land tenure. Along with 6 above, some landholders question any viable future in the Northern Territory and are likely to emigrate to other jurisdictions.

8. The social licence of fossil fuel industries should be terminated

The fossil fuel industries, in this case gas production through hydraulic fracturing, operates under a social licence since they exploit a resource that we are repeatedly told belongs to the Australian people. The cost of exploiting this resource has proven to be detrimental to human welfare through the primary contribution to carbon pollution of

the biosphere, the plundering of Australia's heritage and economy as evidenced by the east coast energy market, and the corruption of our democracy through the infiltration of vested interests into the public service and politics⁹. We are presented with exaggerated claims about employment, and inaccuracies about economic activity including regarding costings (see 4), contributions to the Australian Treasury (royalties to State/Territory treasuries rarely if ever being realised in full). We are presented with unproven claims about Carbon Capture and Storage technologies, environmental offsets, and dubious carbon credits¹⁰. The fossil fuel industries prosper under social upheaval, war and extreme climatic events. For instance, flow on effects from the current Russia-Ukraine conflict, bushfire smoke pollution impacting solar resources, extreme wind velocities shutting down wind turbines, and drought or flood inhibiting hydro-electricity generation. Contrast this to the proven benefits over costs, and employment opportunities of the renewable energy industries¹¹, which will be particularly beneficial to northern Australia including the Northern Territory¹².

In 2019 the Beyond Zero Emissions organisation in conjunction with the Environment Centre NT release the '10 Gigawatt Vision' outlining how by 2030, the NT Government could help drive investment in 10 gigawatts of renewables, creating over 8,000 new jobs and over \$2 billion in revenue. The 10 Gigawatt Vision is promoted as a sustainable alternative to economic strategies based on fossil fuels. In our opinion the Northern Territory should be moving in this direction rather than new engagement with fossil fuel extractive industries.

We thank the Department and its officers for consideration of our objection.

Please direct correspondence to Jacqueline Taylor via:

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Postal: [REDACTED] Adelaide River NT 0846

⁹ <https://theconversation.com/how-to-deal-with-fossil-fuel-lobbying-and-its-growing-influence-in-australian-politics-188515> accessed 14/05/2022.

¹⁰ ['Untenable': even companies profiting from Australia's carbon market say the system must change \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/untenable-even-companies-profiting-from-australia-s-carbon-market-say-the-system-must-change-101415244) accessed 14/05/2022.

¹¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/what-are-green-jobs-how-do-i-train-for-clean-energy-sector/101415244> accessed 14/05/2022

¹² [Publications | Net Zero Australia](https://www.netzeroaustralia.com/publications) accessed 14/05/2022

CC: The Honorable Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister

The Honorable Lauren Moss, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Security

The Honorable Dheran Young, Member for Daly

Srijittra Muir

From: Sandy May <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 8:05 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to EP218
Importance: High

To Hon. Nicole Mansion, Minister for Mining and Industry,

My name is Annalise May (I am 12.5) I live in Palmerston but I manly stay with my grandparents at Adelaide River.

I object to the granting of Petroleum Expiration Licence EP218 to Arafura oil Pty Ltd because of:

My Reasons why I object...

- Water-Security
- Water-Contamination
- Damaged-Springs
- Toxins
- Water-Pollution
- Water-Poison
- Water use
- The Recommendations made by the NT Fracking Inquiry have not been implemented yet
- Methane emissions for locals
- Health impacts for locals
- Effects on Tourism
- Noise and light form compression stations and flaring
- Increased traffic carrying dangerous chemicals
- Impacts on Litchfield National Park creeks and waterfalls, Robin Falls, springs, etc
- How will they dispose of toxic and/or radioactive wastewater and solids?

Yours Sincerely, Annalise May

From: Shona Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 11:53 PM
To: Minister Manison
Subject: Petroleum Exploration License EP218

To Hon Minister for Mining and Industry Nicole Manison,

My name is Shona Forsberg. I'm a mother of two young children, and we live in Katherine. As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the future my children will grow up in and the challenges we all face with regards to climate change, water security, increasing heat stress and the degradation and destruction of the land we love. Thus I am writing to object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration License EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd.

The main concerns I have with this particular license being granted are those related to water use and contamination of potable water, proximity of such explorative activities being so close to the town of Katherine and to that of Litchfield NP, and further degradation of the environment in proposed areas.

Such exploratory fracking activity requires many millions of litres of water. I'm concerned that we just don't have enough water for this activity to be carried out in a sustainable manner, and that granting of such a license would have disastrous consequences on the ecosystems that rely on affected water systems. In the last 4 years, the Katherine region has had below average rainfall for three of those wet seasons. And who knows what the future holds? With climate change on our doorstep it is a very likely scenario that with each coming year we will have less rainfall, which means less water to support all forms of life in the NT as we know it. Giving away more water for free to support polluting oil companies in a time of climate instability just seems like an unfathomable idea.

And not only will the granting of this license mean giving away enormous amounts of water for free, the process of fracking itself poses very real risks related to contaminating our fresh water aquifers with toxic chemicals or with salt water where drilling also occurs through aquifers of high salinity. The aquifers in our region are all linked, and linked to our river systems. Please do not risk all of our water and beautiful river systems to the toxic chemicals used in fracking. No process is 100% fool proof, and we have seen time and time again, across the globe, that environmental disasters do happen. Companies take risks, cut costs, leave room for human error and the consequences are left for the people and governments to deal with.

Kind Regards,

Shona Forsberg
Katherine, NT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Srijitra Muir

From: Sandy May [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 September 2022 8:53 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Minister Moss; Minister Fyles; Dheran Young; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Objection to EP218
Attachments: Final Report Contamination Pathways p.145.pdf; Final Report List of Issues.pdf; Ground Water under Tipperary Station.pdf; Tipperary Station Maps.pdf
Importance: High

To Nicole Manison,
Minister for the Department of Industry, Tourism & Trade.

My name is Andrew May, I live near the Township of Adelaide River, I have lived here on our farm for 9 years this October, I am concerned about the effects on my family and my animals on our farm if this were to be approved.

I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Pty Ltd because we have a right to clean drinking water, this is a humanitarian right for every person in the country, and all Governments are obliged to provide all communities with clean drinkable water.

It is most likely going to be contaminated if this permit is to be approved.

My family & Community conducted surveys in 2015 to stop this industry with the following results from the local residents wanting a **FRACK-FREE COMMUNITY**. Coomalie Shire Council was the first declared Frack Free Community in 2015.

Adelaide River 96.5%
Batchelor/ Lake Bennett 98.1%
Silkwood/ Dorat Rd 97%

This would be devastating to not only my husband and me but also to our 4 kids and our 4 grandchildren here in Darwin who love coming to the farm for sleepovers and holidays for our 5 grandchildren in Victoria.

Nicole, please take the time to watch this documentary [Fractured Country - An Unconventional Invasion](#), on how this industry destroyed the families and communities of the Tara/ Chinchilla region in QLD. Put yourself in these people's lives for an hour and learn how devastating it is seeing their children and family so sick, all thanks to the fracking activities in their region. Is this what you would expose my community to?

[Fractured Country - An Unconventional Invasion](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrE7LzZCn1E>

A meeting with you to discuss this further with the affected communities would be greatly appreciated.

My biggest issues with this approval are as listed;

- Water Used by Arafura Oil – 10s or Millions of Litres for the Fracking process
- Water Contamination of the 4 aquifers under these 2 stations this EP218 cover
- The Recommendations made by the NT Fracking Inquiry have not been implemented in the exploration phase
- Methane emissions and impact on the climate
- Health impacts for locals

- Effects on Tourism
- Impact on the natural springs in both LNP and Douglas Hot Springs?
- Impact on the surrounding waterfalls in the Region of this EP218 – Robins Falls, Wangi Falls, Florence Falls, Buley Rock Holes, Cascades, Tjaynera Falls, Tolmer Falls. The loss of these would be devastating
- Noise and light from compression stations and flaring- affect the birds and all wildlife.
- Increased traffic carrying dangerous chemicals on unsuitable roads
- Impacts on Litchfield National Park creeks and waterfalls, Robin Falls, springs, etc
- How will they dispose of toxic and/or radioactive wastewater and solids?
- Where are the financial benefits to Territorians?
- The jobs from these activities are minimal Beetaloo was only 524 at maximum operations- taken from the Pepper Report.
- Taxes used to prop up these companies to poison our Land, Water & Air
- Impact on endangered wildlife
- Impact on our rainwater tanks- we rely on these all year round

I requested more information on Arafura Oil's plans and who they are.
I request to be kept up to date on the process of this Exploration Permit.

Yours Sincerely,
Andrew May

Andrew May
[REDACTED]
Adelaide River NT 0846
[REDACTED]

Srijitra Muir

From: Donna Posala [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 September 2022 4:49 PM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Exploration Permit EP218
Attachments: Concerns regarding Fracking EP218.pdf

Dear Hon Nicole Manison,

Please find the MakMak Marranunggu Elder's Council concerns attached.

Kind regards,

Donna Posala
on behalf of Kathleen Deveraux



Makmak Marranunggu Elder's Council
C/- PO Batchelor NT 0845
Twin Hill Station
Marindja Road, Rakula NT
Contact person: Calvin Deveraux
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Hon Nicole Manison

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Advanced Manufacturing; Minister for Mining and Industry; Minister for Northern Australia and Trade; Minister for Parks and Rangers; Minister for Tourism and Hospitality

[REDACTED]
Casuarina NT 0811

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: minister.manison@nt.gov.au

Thursday 29th September 2022

Dear Hon Nicole Manison,

Re: Concerns about potential fracking EP218

As the Makmak Marranunggu Elder's Council, and on behalf our people the Makmak, Marranunggu people we would like to raise our concerns about the potential harm to our homelands and health and well-being of our people who reside within these areas in relation to the EP218 for Fracking on Tipperary and Litchfield Stations that border our communities. Our primary concern is the contamination to the aquifers - the quality and quantity of water sources on the Wagait Aboriginal Land Trust, Gurudju Aboriginal Land Trust, Litchfield National Park, Well Tree, Wangi, Labelle, as well as the Coomalie region and as far reaching as Dundee. Also its negative impact on the river systems, and its outflow to the salt water and on dire effects on marine life, and on our coastal environment. We foresee this to be a real threat to our lives and our livelihoods as it will poison our water supply. The impact of fracking on our delicate ecology is going to be catastrophic – not only on our natural resources, but also of our cultural sites of significance, so we urge your office to consider the importance and urgency of this matter – to stop fracking and exploration, including mining.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration to take action against fracking from going ahead in these proposed regions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Deveraux', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Deveraux on behalf of the
(The Makmak Marranunggu Elder's Council)

[Redacted]

Mobile: [Redacted]

Srijitra Muir

From: Therese Balanzategui [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 October 2022 10:20 AM
To: Minister Manison
Cc: Chief Minister; Minister Moss; Dheran Young

To Hon. Nicole Manison, Minister for Mining and Industry,

My name is Therese Balanzategui. I live in Fly Creek, on 20 acres of pristine savannah woodland. I am a keen bushwalker and regularly visit Litchfield NP, especially with interstate visitors. Surely protecting Litchfield Park is viable.

I object to the granting of Petroleum Exploration Licence EP218 to Arafura Oil Ltd because we need to keep our underground water safe, the quantity and the health of our water is essential for the health of our whole environment, humans, plants and animals. Don't risk it!

I love the NT and do all I can to ensure that the lifestyle we currently enjoy will be protected for future generations. That means PROTECTING OUR WATER!!! This is a no-brainer, surely??? Why take the risk?

So far there are no guarantees that any level of exploration, including fracking, is totally safe, and I disagree with some of the so-called "low risks" such as having no drinking water available for up to a week. We all rely on our BORE WATER. I wish I could trust our Government to protect it.

Kind Regards,

Therese Balanzategui
[REDACTED]