

# Honour Your Commitment

## All Emissions Must Be Fully Offset or Gas Fracking Should Not Go Ahead

### An Open Letter to Chief Minister Michael Gunner

Please fulfil your commitment to no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from NT fracking.

In 2018, many of us strongly urged that gas fracking should not go ahead in the Northern Territory.

This was based on the scientifically robust carbon budget framework which shows existing fossil fuel reserves need to remain unburned. New fossil fuel development is incompatible with the goal of the 2015 Paris climate agreement that aims to limit the rise in global temperature to well below 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels and to make every effort to limit the rise to 1.5°C.

Since then, the situation has become more urgent.

The rapid escalation of climate change and its impacts was underlined by the latest IPCC report, and supported by the International Energy Agency's (IEA) pathway to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. This leaves no room for major new fossil fuel developments like fracking across the NT.

The NT is particularly susceptible to climate change. In Darwin the number of days over 35°C is expected to increase from 11 days per year currently to up to 308 days in 2070 if emissions are not reduced quickly.

Climate change is also increasing the frequency and severity of fires, floods and other extreme weather events. Sea-level rise is accelerating, and sea levels along the NT coast are rising faster than the global average.

Chief Minister Gunner, you committed to the faithful implementation of all the recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (Fracking Inquiry), including the critically important Recommendation 9.8:

That the NT and Australian governments seek to ensure that there is no net increase in the life cycle GHG emissions emitted in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Inquiry report makes it clear: “the increase in life cycle GHG emissions in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT must be fully offset.”

Lifecycle emissions include all emissions from the production, processing and ultimate combustion of the gas if within Australia, which are known as scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Chief Minister Gunner, for you to honour your commitment the NT offset policy must require all lifecycle Greenhouse Gas emissions in Australia from any onshore gas produced in the NT including scope 3 emissions to be fully and genuinely offset.

If this cannot be achieved, a critical recommendation has failed, and fracking should not proceed.

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