



ACN 114 027 986
PO Box 190, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

26 April 2024

Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

Submission: Carpentaria Pilot Project EP187 Environmental Impact Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on referring the Imperial Oil & Gas Carpentaria Pilot Program (CPP) for an environmental impact assessment.

GetUp is an independent movement of over one million members who care about climate justice, economic fairness, and First Nations justice. Our members are everyday people from across the country and include Traditional Owners from across the Northern Territory.

The environmental impact assessment submitted by Imperial Oil and Gas is woefully inadequate. The Carpentaria Pilot Project will impact water, culture and the climate.

Water is life for all of us. But for remote First Nations communities, water is culture, song lines, sustenance – survival.

Fracking uses millions of litres of precious water, pumps toxic chemicals underground and creates thousands of litres of harmful waste water. Traditional Owners have been fighting for over a decade to protect water from fracking.

Gas from the Carpentaria pilot project that is fracked and burnt will release climate pollution and contribute to worsening bushfires, floods and heatwaves. Climate impacts are hitting communities in the NT and around the globe, we cannot afford new gas projects.

Dreaming sites, sacred sites and songlines that Traditional Owners are staunchly fighting to protect will be impacted by fracking in the Beetaloo.

We strongly oppose the Carpentaria Pilot Project and call on the NT EPA to ensure this project is subject to a thorough environmental impact assessment that evaluates the direct and indirect impacts on water, Culture and the climate.

The project also should be referred to the Federal Environment Minister under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* because of the likely significant impact on water resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Amy Gordon

Chief Campaigns Officer GetUp
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Core Northern Territory GetUp Member comments

We asked our core members in the Northern Territory to send us their responses to the Imperial Oil and Gas Carpentaria Pilot Project. Our members have highlighted the impacts that fracking has on water, Country and climate and call for the NT EPA to ensure this project is subject to a thorough environmental impact assessment.

Hydraulic fracturing is a destructive way of extracting fossil fuels that is guaranteed to poison land and groundwater due to the injecting of pressurised chemicals deep into the ground and the fracturing of rock layers that contain aquifers.

Alex Buralli, 0810

Fracking in the Beetaloo Basin could lead to irreversible contamination of the underground water. We do not need this gas to be removed from the ground.

Annie Whybourne, 0810

Fracking using millions of litres of precious water, pumps toxic chemicals underground and creates thousands of litres of harmful waste water. In the NT water is life. Traditional Owners have been fighting for over a decade to protect water from fracking. Fracking and burning gas releases climate pollution and contributes to worsening bushfires, floods and heatwaves. Climate impacts are hitting communities in the NT and around the globe, we cannot afford new gas projects. Fracking in the Beetaloo will impact dreaming sites, sacred sites and songlines that Traditional Owners are staunchly fighting to protect.

Aaron Densham, 0810

I have worked closely with Aboriginal communities, and was awarded the OAM for my work. I have witnessed the devastating impact of other mining projects on the local people, who are mainly Aboriginal in that region. The impact needs to be assessed.

John Bond

I live in Darwin and am standing with our Indigenous people to stop the fracking project in the Beetaloo.

Merry Cooper, 0820

Now aged 90, I didn't know when younger how dangerous fracking is. It's life-threatening through adverse climate change and water pollution. I do not wish this to be my legacy to future generations. Do not frack!

Mirelle Green, 0810

Imperial Oil and Empire Energy – you need not be an expert to understand that the names alone say much about motive. These are Capitalist profiteering enterprises focused on quick, unethical returns. The said enterprises by nature have no regard for the future long-term health of the land and its inhabitants – human and non-human. They are not to be relied on regarding the impact of their activities. Therefore NT EPA must act on behalf of the larger inhabitants through eg. unbiased, thorough, and detailed impact assessments.

Michal Glikson, 0872

There are too many environmental issues at stake – danger to the water both artesian and surface water – increased emissions released during the fracking process so adding to climate problems – destruction of natural values of country, disturbance of vegetation, animal and insect populations essential for biodiversity – elimination of organic ratings for beef on pastoral properties due to pollution. Destruction of cultural values – not wanted by First Nations people.

Margaret Opie, 0873

Anyone who knows anything about fracking knows it is the most deadliest and most polluting form of mining there is. The best advertisement against fracking is the bloke who invented it. He said quote “ I wish I'd never invented it.”

Ron Chute, 0810

The NT government should conduct a thorough environmental Impact statement on Imperial oil and gas pilot in the Beetaloo basin. Traditional Owners are not in support of the fracking on their traditional land. Sacred sites, water and traditional routes of passage will be interrupted by this exploration. The effect of fracking in this area is not known. Many NT citizens are concerned about the impact of fracking in the NT, and need guarantees that the environmental concerns are considered with scientific detail.

Gillian Abraham, 0810

Even a pilot project can have environmental impacts. Its impacts will give an indication of what is to come when a full blown harvesting program is put in place, so it is imperative that any indications of possible impacts be discovered and acted upon before commercial harvesting of unconventional gas is allowed to begin. Past experiences have shown that corporations cannot be trusted to monitor their own impacts – an independent or government controlled agency should be doing the monitoring. The groundwater systems of the NT are largely pristine, which makes them globally significant and relatively rare, so it is doubly important that our governments, who are the elected legal custodians of these resources, make sure that commercial enterprises are not permitted or tolerated to damage our heritage and essential natural life supports.

Andrew Spicers, 0841

Because this project will have potentially irreversible impacts on our water (fracking pollutes water), our climate (in the context of the current climate crisis we're in, we shouldn't be increasing emissions but reducing it), and our culture, including sacred sites.

Janina Murta, 0810

Fracking is a disaster for water, climate and Country – using millions of litres of precious water, pumping toxic chemicals underground, setting off a climate bomb and destroying sacred sites. The EPA needs to do a thorough impact assessment into Empire Energy's plans to frack the Beetaloo basin to prevent a major climate, cultural and environmental catastrophe.

Tracey Bunn, 0822

It is not clear that water purity and sacred sites will be protected, or how.

Gregory Goodluck, 0810

Water is life, especially here in the NT . We all rely on groundwater for survival . Without a proper assessment of the impacts of fracking & exactly how much water will be used is deceptive at the least. NO TO FRACKING !!

Cindy Ryan, 0822

The scientific evidence relating to adverse health impacts of fracking is overwhelming. As a Paediatrician who has worked in the Beetaloo Basin area for 40 years, I insist this not go ahead without a legitimate impact assessment

Paul Bauret, 0800

I am a long term NT resident and business owner. I care deeply about this place, the people, the environment, and ensuring we act with integrity as custodians of the land and water on behalf of future generations. Water IS life. I respect the Traditional Owners of this land and their continuous connection to the land and their clearly articulated concerns about fracking. I respect the scientific evidence that clearly shows the damage and lasting impact - short, medium and long term - caused by fracking. We need an independent rigorous impact assessment of this pilot fracking project by the NT EPA. Empire Energy's conduct to date - such as holding toxic chemical waste water in open ponds during flood season - does not inspire confidence in their own assessment of impact. It can't be left to self-assessment. This is of critical importance to the whole of NT. Please take action and conduct a rigorous and transparent assessment. Thank you.

Joy Taylor, 0870

Fracking is a disaster for water, climate and Country, using millions of litres of precious water, pumping toxic chemicals underground, setting off a climate bomb and destroying sacred sites.

Susan Lewis, 0810

I am concerned about the potential negative impact on environmental health and about the potential impact on community health and wellbeing - ability for people to live well in remote communities, with access to a healthy environment and water security. I am concerned about the impact on /progression of climate change and what this means for 'live-ability' in the NT. As a medical professional, I see firsthand the negative impact on people and communities of heat stress and water security.

Dan Wilson, 0870