

Phil Walcott

Independent Candidate  
for Braithling



## Questionnaire on shale gas fracking, to all political parties and candidates contesting the August 2016 Territory election

Please answer Yes or No for each of the following questions. Feel free to also add additional comments to your answers.

Your answers will be made available to the public via Lock the Gate, the Northern Territory Frack Free Alliance and community networks across the Territory.

1) Will you set up an independent scientific panel of experts to provide binding advice on the issues surrounding shale gas fracking and its social, environmental and public health impacts?

YES

NO

Optional comment: I'll be very happy to work with the other 24 members of parliament to effect policy, procedures & practices that will bring this devastating option to an end.

2) Will you ensure full baseline studies of ground and surface water quality and quantity are undertaken and publicly available before drilling for shale gas commences?

YES

NO

I will work with a parliamentary committee to be established to oversee the transparency & good governance of any research undertaken.

3) Will you prevent the risks of shale gas fracking in the Territory by halting the industry ~~until~~ <sup>unless</sup> it can be proven safe, by:

- A ban on any development of the shale gas industry for at least 5 years

- A moratorium on shale gas drilling <sup>unless</sup> until science and community concerns are fully researched and resolved

- Other, please outline: Promotion of the transition to renewable energy options as a priority over the next decade.

- Create 'The Solar Centre' initiative that will provide training, jobs & research opportunities through Charles Darwin University (partners).

8) In the event of water contamination in areas of the NT targeted by shale gas fracking, do you support a policy where it is up to the companies involved to prove they didn't contaminate the water? (This would replace the current system where the onus of proof falls on the landholder to prove their water was clean before shale gas extraction operated in the area.)

YES A water audit would be conducted  
NO prior to any intrusion. This independent  
audit would be conducted under the auspice  
Optional comment:  
of the Water Resources portfolio

9) Will you mandate under law that shale gas companies must hold comprehensive environmental pollution insurance before they can operate in the NT and that they hold a substantial bond for at least 25 years after fracking concludes to cover any future damages?

YES My aim will be to ban hydraulic  
NO fracturing all together. The practice  
cannot be proven to be safe, ergo  
Optional comment:  
it should not be entertained.

Renewable energy options e.g. solar in  
the Centre & wave energy technology in the

Thank you for completing this survey that is of great interest to Territory residents.  
Please email your completed questionnaire to [FrackFreeNT@gmail.com](mailto:FrackFreeNT@gmail.com).

North along the coast line can  
replace unsustainable practices.